



Regional Plant Resource Centre  
An autonomous organization under the Department of Forest and Environment, Govt. of Odisha, India

# PLANT OF THE WEEK

11th week  
16-03-2015

## *Cyathea spinulosa* Wall.ex Hook– Tree Fern

### Botanical Name :

*Cyathea spinulosa* Wall.ex Hook

### Synonyms :

*Alsophila fauriei* H. Christ

*Alsophila spinulosa* (Wall.ex Hook.) R.M.

Tryon

*Cyathea taiwanian* Nakai

*Alsophila decipiens* Jcott ex Bedd.

*Amphicosmia decipiens* (J. Scott ex Bedd.)

Bedd.

### Family :

Cyatheaceae



### Tree Fern

*Cyathea spinulosa* Wall.ex Hook

### Uses

The whole part of the plant is used for graying of hair and also used as general hair tonic. Powder of fronds are used as a sudorific and aphrodisiac. Whole plant used as ornamental.

**Trunk :** It is used for orchid cultivation. Pith from the trunks is used as a food production and also stem as food & used in making pots. Trunk fibers used for orchid tissue culture media. The stem can be used in traditional Chinese medicine for eliminating dampness and strengthening muscles and joints.

**Root :** Root are used for the preparation of local drink.



### Habitat

In deep shade usually in moist place in the lower mountainous forest.

### Distribution

India, Thailand, Nepal, Indonesia, Japan, Myanmar, China, Taiwan.

Odisha (Bonai, Keonjhar, South Kalahandi, Gunpur, Sambalpur, Mahendragiri, Malayagiri)

**Fertile time:** December - March

### Conservation Status

Threatened

### Description

**Habit :** The tree have a single stemmed palm like habit and it reach height of 5-6 meters.

**Trunk :** Trunk 5-15 m, 10-20 cm in diameter, densely covered by adventitious roots. Stipes dark purplish distinctly. Spiny near base; scale shining dark brown, stiff, their bases later develop in to spines.

**Laminae :** Laminae about 3m long, 1.5 m wide, ca. 23 pairs of pinnae, a few basal pinnae reduced. Pinna-rachis bearing scales, pinnules broadly cuneate at sub-sessile base, acuminate at apex, about 8 cm long.

**Sori :** Sori at forks of lateral veinlets, indusial globose, thin membranous, completely enveloping sori from base when young, irregularly falling off at maturity.



### Source

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