

Asplenium australasicum



***Asplenium australasicum*:** Bird's-nest fern or crow's-nest fern

Family: *Aspleniaceae*

Genus: *Asplenium* from Greek *spleen* (spleen) in reference to the supposed medicinal properties in treating that organ.

Species: *australasicum* from Latin *australis* (south), *-icus* (belonging to) in reference to its geographic habitat in the southern hemisphere.

The fronds of the bird's nest fern, which can reach over 1m in length, form a tight rosette. This rosette traps water and debris keeping the fern moist and well nourished. The foliage is an attractive shiny green and the midrib of the fronds is strongly keeled beneath. The fern occurs naturally as an epiphyte on tree trunks, or on banks or rocks in rainforest and wet sclerophyll forests.



Spore pattern and strongly keeled rachis on the underside



Drawing: S. Dowrie

Cross section of frond showing keel

Flora of Australia Volume 48: Ferns, Gymnosperms and Allied Groups,
Australian Ferns: Growing them Successfully by Calder Chaffey,
A Field Guide to Australian Ferns: Volume 1 by Calder Chaffey.

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