

Arachniodes aristata



Arachniodes aristata: Prickly Shield Fern

Family: *Dryopteridaceae*

Genus: *Arachniodes* from the Greek *arachne* (a spider web), *odes* (like, resembling) in reference to the young fronds which are covered by fine hairs resembling cobwebs.

Species: *aristata*, from the Latin, *arista*, (an awn, the bristle-like appendages on the glumes of grasses), in reference to the sharp tips on the pinnules.

This is a terrestrial fern reaching a height of 120cm and spreading locally. The laminae are leathery green and shiny above and paler below. It grows in rainforests



Groove on the rachis



Young frond with 'cobweb' appearance



Spore pattern. Note the very sharp points on the tips of the pinnules

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.

W.Johnston Nov 2015