

Adiantum diaphanum



Adiantum diaphanum: Filmy
maidenhair fern

Family: *Adiantaceae*

Genus: *Adiantum* from the Greek *adianos* (dry or non-wettable), referring to the water-shedding nature of the lamina.

Species: from Latin *diaphanus* (almost transparent) in reference to the fine filmy pinnules.

It is commonly a small, soft, tufted fern – often only 10 cms although it can grow to 30 cms. The fern is distinguished by the presence of a few stiff black hairs on the surface of some pinnules – no other adiantum having black hairs. In cultivation, it reproduces by root buds and sporing when moisture and humidity are maintained.



Robust form



Small form beside a waterfall



P.D.Bostock



Spore pattern

Black stiff hairs on pinnule

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.