

Angiopteris evecta



Angiopteris evecta: King Fern

Family: *Marattiaceae*

Genus: *Angiopteris*: from Greek *angion* (a vessel) and *pterus* (a fern)

Species: *evecta*: from Latin *evectus* (raised, lifted up) in reference to the fronds being held erect by fluid pressure.

This fern is considered primitive; very similar fossilised fronds have been found in rocks some 300 million years old. It is a very large fern with a height of up to 6m and the diameter of the crown up to 12m. Interestingly, the fronds have no hard tissue and they rely entirely on the fluid in their cells to support them. In dry times the fronds collapse, to recover only when water again becomes available. The fronds however, are very fleshy and contain a lot of starch. In the Society Islands the young shoots were eaten and flour made from the stipes and rhizomes.



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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