

Adiantum capillus-veneris



Adiantum capillus-veneris: Venus Hair Fern

Family: *Adiantaceae*

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

Species: *capillus-veneris* from the Latin *capillus* (hair), *veneris* (Venus), in reference to the fine hair-like rachis.

This is a light green, locally spreading, terrestrial fern growing to about 40cm.

Note that the rhizome is visible on the ground, unlike other maiden hairs of similar appearance.

It is widespread in temperate and tropical parts of the world, favouring wet rocks and rock walls, especially limestone.



Spore pattern – note the wide soral flap not indented into the margin