

Adiantum atroviride

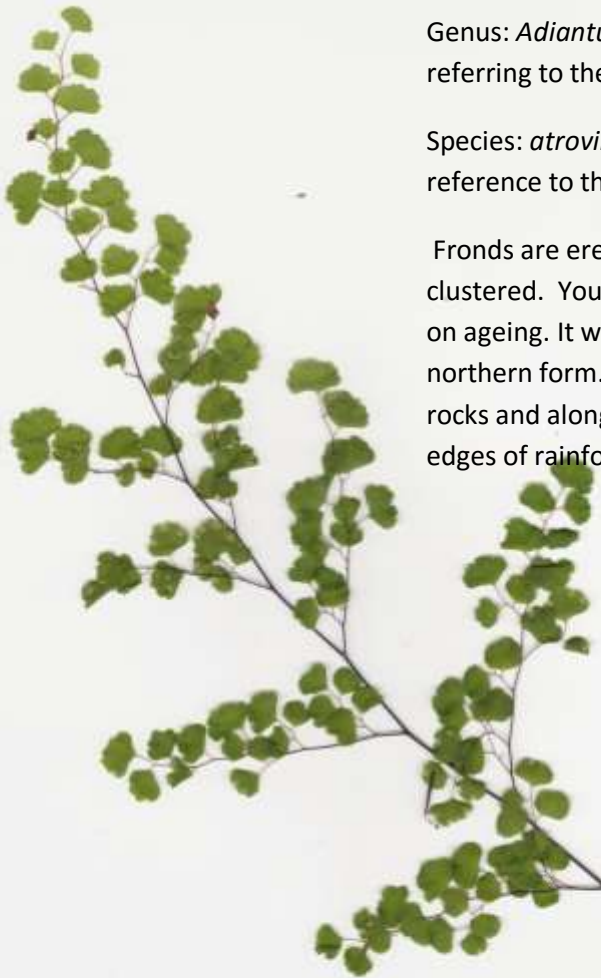
Adiantum atroviride: Common Maidenhair.

Family: *Adiantaceae*

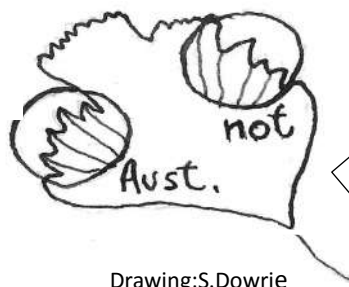
Genus: *Adiantum* from the Greek *adianos* (dry or non-wettable), referring to the water-shedding nature of the lamina.

Species: *atroviride* from Latin *ater* (black) and *viridis* (green) in reference to the blackish stem and green pinnules.

Fronds are erect to arching, to 75 cm long, and usually loosely clustered. Young fronds are a delicate light green, becoming darker on ageing. It was previously known as *Adiantum aethiopicum* northern form. This fern prefers an alkaline soil. It occurs among rocks and along creek banks in moist eucalypt forests and on the edges of rainforests.



Spore pattern



Drawing: S. Dowrie

Note that for all Australian *Adiantum* ferns the veins on a sterile pinnule end at or near the apex of the marginal teeth, never in the sinus between the teeth.