

# *Blechnum cartilagineum*



Spore pattern



## ***Blechnum cartilagineum*:**

Gristle fern

Family: *Blechnaceae*

Genus: *Blechnum* from the Greek *blechnon* (a fern)

Species: *cartilagineum* from the Latin *cartilaginous* (gristly, flexible but tough) in reference to the texture of the fern.

This is an erect and tufted terrestrial fern, growing to a height of 100cm. The leaves are leathery, divided once and have a narrow triangular shape. New growth is a vivid pink. Laminae are sometimes dimorphic with fertile pinnae being slightly narrower than sterile pinnae.



Pink new growth

*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.