

Pellaea falcata



Wiry, shiny, dark stem



Pellaea falcata: Sickie Fern

Family: *Adiantaceae*

Genus: *Pellaea* from the Greek *pellaios* (dark) in reference to the dark frond stipes.

Species: *falcata* from the Latin *falcatus* (sickle-shaped) in reference to the shape of the pinnae.

This fern grows up to 60cm high. It is a terrestrial fern with 29 to 121 leaflets per frond, each leaflet being 2-5cm long. It forms a dense colony. The wiry stipes persist after the frond dies. In dry weather the frond shrivels, and resumes normal form after rain.

It grows in open forest and drier rainforest margins, among rocks and in sand dunes.



Spore pattern



Scales standing out on rachis

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.