

# *Drynaria rigidula*



## *Drynaria rigidula*: Basket Fern

Family: *Polypodiaceae*

Genus: From Greek *dryinos*, (an oak), a tree sacred to the Dryads, in reference to the form of the sterile fronds which resemble oak leaves.

Species: From Latin *rigidulus*, (moderately rigid).

The rhizome is thick, fleshy and densely scaled. The fronds are markedly dimorphic. The sterile or nest fronds have a short, papery lamina, are shaped like an oak leaf and are very long-lived. These nest leaves act as humus collectors, enabling the fern to survive long, dry periods. The fertile fronds, up to 150cm in length, have pinnae that are jointed to the midrib and have toothed margins.



Fertile fronds

*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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