

CHEIROPLEURACEAE

(J.E. Laferrière, Providence, USA)

Cheiropleuriaceae T. Nakai, Bot. Mag. (Tokyo) 42 (1928) 210.

Terrestrial or epilithic herb. *Rhizome* woody, creeping or subscandent, protostelic, lacking scales, covered with soft, uniseriate, pale brown, multicellular hairs. *Fronde*s dimorphous. *Petioles* glabrous except at base, not articulated to rhizome. *Sterile fronds* often simple but typically 2(–4)-lobed, entire and lobed blades often appearing on the same plant, lamina glabrous, coriaceous; the lobes (if present) acuminate with a broad sinus between; base broadly rounded or sometimes obtuse or acute; margins entire, sometimes slightly revolute; main veins dichotomous, smaller veins reticulate. *Fertile fronds* simple, narrow, linear to narrowly lanceolate, gradually tapering at both ends; upper surface glabrous; lower surface wholly covered with sporangia and simple club-shaped paraphyses except along the 1–3 main veins and a narrow strip along the margin. *Sporangia* long-stalked, annulus almost vertical, extending most of the way round the sporangium. *Spores* creamy-white to pale brown.

One genus with one species.

TAXONOMY

The family has often been treated as part of the *Polypodiaceae*. The unique sporangial structure, however, suggests a more distant relationship. See K. A. Wilson, Contr. Gray Herb. 185 (1959) 97–127.

CHEIROPLEURIA

Cheiropleuria C. Presl, Epim. Bot. (1851) 189; Holttum, Revis. Fl. Malaya 2 (1954) 136; Ohwi, Fl. Japan (1965) 97; DeVol in Fl. Taiwan 1 (1975) 163; Walker, Fl. Okinawa (1976) 111; Tagawa & Iwatsuki in Fl. Thailand 3 (1979) 484; Kramer in Kubitzki (ed.), Fam. & Gen. Vasc. Pl. 1 (1990) 69. — Type species: *Cheiropleuria bicuspis* (Blume) C. Presl.

Characters of the family. One species.

***Cheiropleuria bicuspis* (Blume) C. Presl**

Cheiropleuria bicuspis (Blume) C. Presl, Epim. Bot. (1851) 189; Holttum, Rev. Fl. Malaya 2 (1954) 136. — *Polypodium bicuspe* Blume, Enum. Pl. Jav. (1828) 125. — Type: *Blume s.n.* (L, sh. 908.328-51). *Cheiropleuria bicuspis* (Blume) C. Presl var. *integrifolia* Alderw., Malayan Ferns (1908) 733. — Type: not indicated.

Rhizome 4–10 mm in diam.; hairs up to 1 cm long. *Fronde*s extremely variable in proportions. *Sterile fronds* 20–60 cm long, lamina up to 21 by 16(–30) cm. *Fertile fronds* usually longer than sterile ones, up to 52 cm long, lamina (5–)10–12(–25) mm wide. *Petioles* 20–50 cm long. — Fig. 1.

Distribution — Throughout *Malesia* to southern Japan, southern China, Vietnam and Thailand.

Habitat — Usually on steep or rocky, generally rather dry soil in hills and mountains. Altitude 600–1500 m.

Taxonomy — The leaves of this species are highly variable, with entire and lobed leaves sometimes appearing on the same plant. For this reason, var. *integrifolia* is not recognized here as a separate taxon.

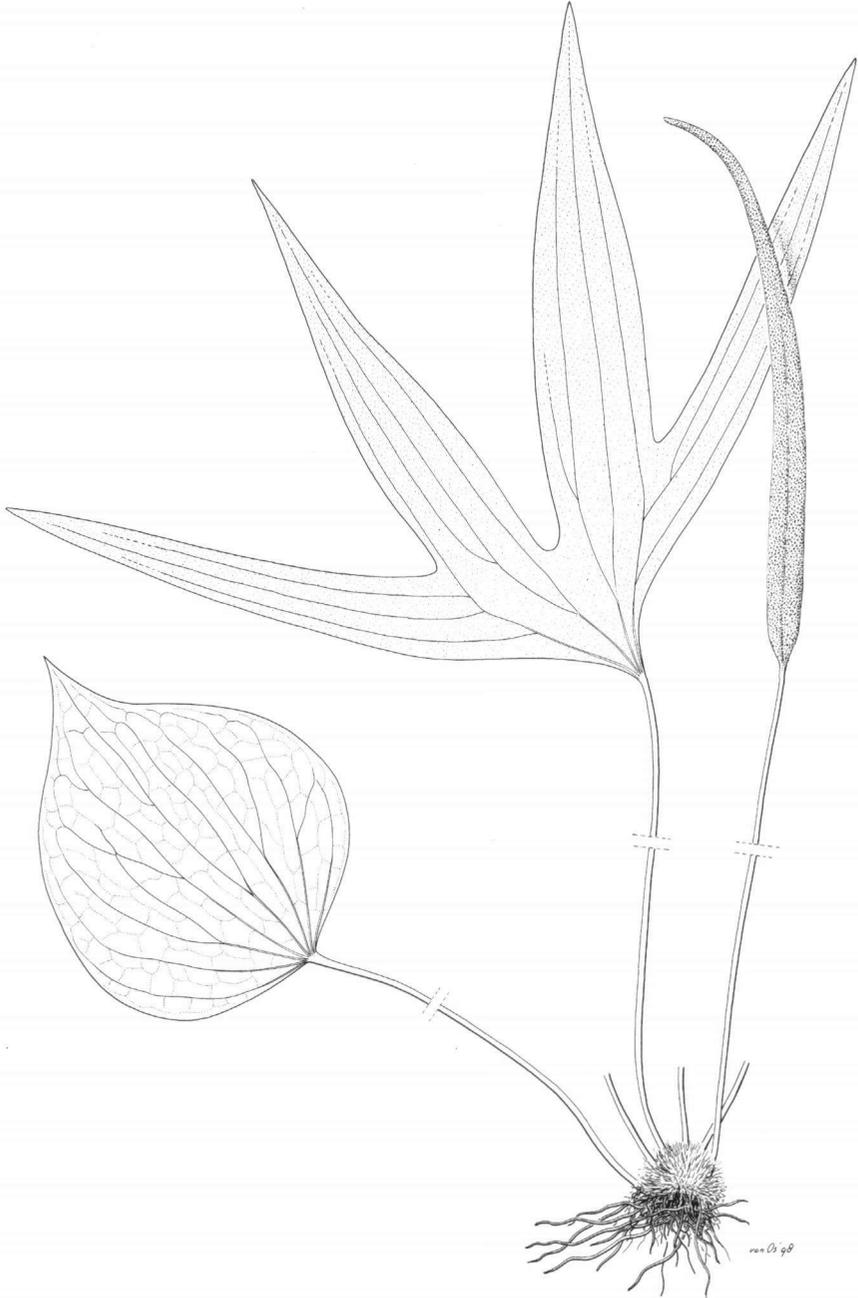


Fig. 1. *Cheiropleuria bicuspidata* (Blume) C. Presl. Habit with sterile and fertile leaves; $\times 0.5$.