

Calochlaena dubia



Calochlaena dubia: False bracken, Soft bracken

Family: *Dicksoniaceae*

Genus: *Calochlaena* from the Greek *kalos* (beautiful) and *chlaena* (a cloak) descriptive of the soft hairs that clothe these ferns.

Species: *dubia* (doubtful) derivation unknown.

This terrestrial fern grows to a height of 1.5m. Its fronds are moderately crowded, erect and arching, green to yellow green. Each frond divides 3 or 4 times, is triangular shaped and lacy. The fern has a thick rhizome, densely covered with soft silvery and long brown hairs. The stipe also has long hairs near the base.

Soft bracken often forms extensive patches on hillsides in open eucalypt forests. It is a hardy fern, growing in most soils, in shade to full sunlight and once established is fairly drought resistant.



Spore pattern



Silky hairs on stem

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.