

Threatened Species of the Northern Territory

Angiopteris evecta

Conservation status

Australia: Not listed

Northern Territory: Vulnerable



Photo: P. Rasmussen

Description

Angiopteris evecta is a distinctive large ground-dwelling fern, with fronds to 5 or more metres long. The leaf blade is two pinnate, deltoid to 3.2 m long and 2.5 m wide. The spore clusters (sori) are submarginal. The trunk is less than 90 cm tall (Short *et al.* 2003).

Distribution

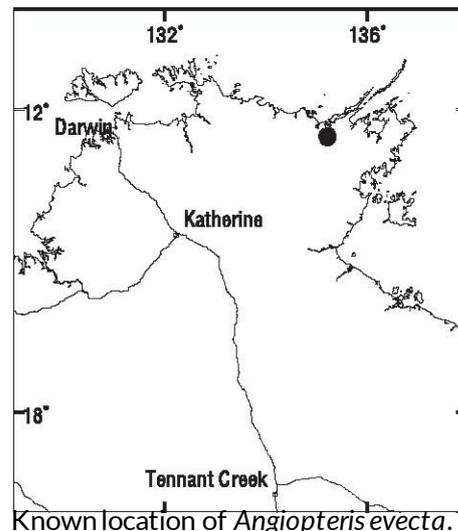
In Australia it occurs in the NT, eastern Queensland and north-eastern NSW. It also occurs throughout the Palaeotropics (Camus 1998). In the Northern Territory, it is recorded from only one locality in northeastern Arnhem Land (Short *et al.* 2003).

Conservation reserves where reported:

None.

Ecology

This species grows in monsoon rainforest at perennial springs in narrow sandstone gorges.



Known location of *Angiopteris evecta*.

Conservation assessment

No indication of abundance was given with the collected specimen. Given the size of the species and restricted habitat, it is unlikely that more than 250 individuals exist at the one locality. As such this species could qualify for Endangered based on Criterion D.

There is some data deficiency associated with this species as no species-specific surveys have been undertaken. Although it is considered that the Rainforest Atlas data (Russell-Smith 1991; Liddle *et al.* 1994) reflect the restricted distribution and abundance of this species, it is probable that

more populations exist in the vicinity and as such the species is listed as **Vulnerable** (under criteria D1+2).

Threatening processes

This species is known from only one population, and as such is susceptible to exposure to fire, or stochastic events that may affect hydrology. At present it is known from a spring rainforest in a sandstone gorge and it is difficult to identify any imminent threats. Accessibility of the locality to feral animals such as pigs is unknown.

Conservation objectives and management

Further research is required to establish the extent of populations and to monitor population dynamics. Propagation of material and translocation to Darwin Botanic Gardens is recommended.

Complied by

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References

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- Russell-Smith, J. (1991). Classification, species richness, and environmental relations of monsoon rain forest in northern Australia. *Journal of Vegetation Science* **2**, 259-278.
- Short, P., Dixon, D., and Osterkamp Madsen, M. (2003). A review of ferns and fern allies of the Northern Territory. *The Beagle* **19**, 7-80.