

# *Adiantum formosum*



***Adiantum formosum***: Giant Maidenhair.

Family: *Adiantaceae*

Genus: *Adiantum* from the Greek *adianos* (dry or non-wettable), referring to the water-shedding nature of the lamina.

Species: from Latin *formosus* (beautiful) in reference to the fronds.

Fronds are up to 180 cm long with the stipe up to 90 cm long. It is a vigorous and widespreading fern. Its rhizome is usually deeply buried, sometimes to a depth of 30-60 cm., a feature unique among Australian species. In the wild, along creeks and alluvial flats, they spread over large areas, the shiny black stipes and graceful fronds making a beautiful sight.



Note the shiny black stems



Note the dense red-brown hairs on the 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.

W. Johnston Nov 2015