

CYATHEACEAE

Alsophila khasyana T. Moore [= *Cyathea khasyana* (T. Moore) Domin; *Gymnosphaera khasyana* (T. Moore) Ching; *Alsophila ornata* J. Scott ex Bedd.; *Alsophila oldhami* Bedd.; *Cyathea sikkimensis* (Clarke & Baker) Cretz]

Common English name : Tree fern.

Distribution : INDIA: West Bengal (Darjeeling), Sikkim, Assam and Meghalaya; CHINA and MYANMAR.



Alsophila khasyana T. Moore

Photo Courtesy: B.S. Kholia

Habitat : In moist shady places and along streams.

Population status/Cause for RET : Vulnerable.

Description : Tree fern, 1.2-1.5 m tall with spreading crown. Stipes ca 40 cm long, dark brown, scaly at base, sometimes throughout, scales 10-15 × 1-2 mm, margin fragile without setae ending into setose apex. Pinnae ca 75 cm long, pinna rachis with few small scales on lower surface; pinnules 2-12 × 1.5-3 cm, segments deeply lobed up to costa, basal 1-2 pairs free; costules

3-5 mm apart; veins 8-10(-12) pairs, simple or forked, basal basioscopic vein always from costule, margin crenate. Sori globose, slightly close to midrib, more or less parallel lines on either side of midrib, exindusiate near costules.