

Ferns of Africa

KEY TO THE GENUS BLECHNUM

1.a. Sterile lamina deeply pinnatifid, pinnae completely adnate at base in middle part of the frond	2
1.b. Sterile lamina pinnate, sterile pinnae free, sessile or adnate only on basal side in middle part of the frond	5
2.a. Sterile pinnae margins minutely crenulate-dentate	<i>B. ivohibense</i>
2.b. Sterile pinnae margins entire	3
3.a. Fertile and sterile frond more or less same size	<i>B. attenuatum</i>
3.b. Fertile and sterile frond different sizes	4
4.a. Fertile frond larger than sterile frond, fertile frond erect, sterile frond arching; only North Africa	<i>B. spicant</i>
4.b. Fertile frond half or less the length of sterile frond	<i>B. inflexum</i>
5.a. Sterile pinnae margins serrulate-crenulate	<i>B. capense</i>
5.b. Sterile pinnae margins entire to subentire	6
6.a. Sterile pinnae cuneate, free or adnate only on basal side in the middle part of the frond, rhizome erect to procumbent, lamina thickly coriaceous	<i>B. tabulare</i>

6.b. Sterile pinnae auriculate, free on both sides in middle part of the frond, rhizome creeping, lamina thinly coriaceous to membranous	7
7.a. Sterile pinnae apices with short, sharp point, mucronate; sterile pinnae margins minutely serrate; indusium irregularly toothed, torn	B. australe
7.b. Sterile pinnae apices tapering to a point; sterile pinnae margins entire; indusium (sub)entire	8
8.a. Fertile pinnae 5-10 mm broad, sori set at 45° to the costa	9
8.b. Fertile pinnae 1-4 mm broad, sori set parallel to the costa	10
9.a. Sori oval, discrete, set at 45° to costa; only South Africa	B. punctulatum var. krebsii
9.b. Sori semicontinuous, set in a serrate pattern along each side of the costa, together with small detached sori; only South Africa	B. punctulatum var. intermedium
10.a Sori continuous throughout	B. punctulatum var. punctulatum
10.b. Sori discrete, at least at the extremities of the pinnae	B. punctulatum var. atherstonei