

**Botanic name :** *Lygodium scandens* (L.) Sw. -- J. Bot. (Schrader) 1800 [2]. 106. 1801 (IF)

**Common name :** Climbing Maiden Hair Fern, Maha pamba (Sri Lanka), climbing snake's tongue fern

**Family :** Lygodiaceae/Schizaeaceae

**Habitat :** Terrestrial

**Distribution :** Native to India, Sri Lanka-distributed in Asia temperate, and subtropical. Destruction of climbing support and fragmentation of natural forests are the main causes of its rarity in its natural habitat

**Description :** Evergreen climbing fern with dark brown, wiry rhizomes; Rhizomes are short, creeping, underground, dichotomously branched, young regions clothed by stiff brown hairs and producing a single row of climbing leaves; fronds twining, indeterminate in growth, about 30 m; main rachis (leaf stalk above petiole) wiry, stem like; leafy branches of main rachis constituting the leaflets compound once, oblong overall outline; leaflets unlobed, stalked, articulate; leaf blade usually glabrous below; fertile leaflets of similar size, fringed with tiny lobes of enrolled leaf covering the sporangia along the leaf margin; fertile leaflets narrower than sterile ones and fringed by short narrow lobes about 0.32-inch long. Each lobe bears two lateral rows of sporangia attached individually to a short vein and covered by a marginal scale like indusium

**Phytochemicals:** Alkaloids, phenols, saponins, tannins, steroids and flavonoids, triterpenoids, steroids, glycosides, anthraquinones, coumarins, antheridiogens (GA-related compounds), coumaryl dryocrassol, dryocrassol, tectoquinone, kaempferol, kaempferol-3- $\beta$ -D-glucoside,  $\beta$ -sitosterol and stigmasterol

**Medicinal/Economic uses:** Antibacterial, expectorant, antiproliferative and apoptotic, hepatoprotective, antifertility and analgesic. Widely used in Indian Ayurvedic system of medicine and as folk medicine; fresh roots are boiled with mustard oil and used in external applications for sprains, scabies, eczema and cut wounds, rheumatism and carbuncles; Kadar tribes of South Western Ghats used leaf paste to treat jaundice and also in stomach pain by Rabha, Oraon and Mech tribes in Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal, India; also used to treat gonorrhoea (rhizome extract), and herpes (plant ash), and in treating ulcer, various respiratory diseases, general disorders, and muscles sprains. Edible-as fodder and forage (Nepal). Used in the manufacturing of basket, hats, bags and other fancy articles