

## Ferns and fern allies of Odisha state, India

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Ferns and fern allies are commonly known as pteridophytes. They are unique and have food, medicinal, ecological, and economic values. About 13,600 species of pteridophytes are reported globally, and in India, about 1267 species are reported. In Odisha state, about 144 species are recorded. The diversity in India and the landscapes of Odisha indicate that there is a scope to discover and add the pteridophytes from the state. Some recent works on pteridophytes are “*A pictorial guide to ferns of Simlipal*”, “*Ferns of Kuldiha, a pictorial guide*,” and published research papers. Mishra et al. (2023) recorded three rare ferns from Odisha [*Amblovenatum opulentum* (Kaulf.) J.P. Roux, *Pronephrium articulatum* (Houlston & T. Moore) Holttum, and *Sphaerostephanos hirtisorus* (C. Chr.) Holttum]. The above data indicates that there is a need for more exploration works on the pteridophytes of Odisha, followed by the evaluation of food and medicinal values. Therefore, I this editorial aims to bring attention towards the importance of pteridophytes in Odisha and their future aspects.



*Lygodium flexuosum* (L.) Sw.