

### 3. HELMINTHOSTACHYS, Kaulf.

Barren frond leaflike, divided. Fertile frond a pedunculate spikelike panicle. Spore-cases globular but free, in dense clusters all round the rhachis, opening irregularly in an external slit.

The genus is limited to the single Australian species, which extends over East India, the Malayan Archipelago and New Caledonia.

# Helminthostachys

1. **H. zeylanica**, Hook. Gen. Filic. t. 47, 2nd. Cent. Ferns, t. 94, Gard. Ferns, t. 28.—Rhizome thick, creeping, with fleshy fibres. Fronds united in a stipes often 1 ft. long, the fertile leaflike lamina nearly sessile upon it, usually 3-partite, each division deeply pinnatifid. Segments lanceolate, 3 to 5 in. long,  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 1 in. broad, entire or denticulate, more or less decurrent and confluent at the base. Veins numerous, simple or forked, parallel and diverging from the midrib, all free or rarely anastomosing. Spike or rather spikelike panicle 2 to 4 in. long, the peduncle at least as long above the barren lamina. Clusters of spore-cases short and crowded, each cluster usually terminating in a crestlike appendage (abortive spore-cases?)—Bedd. Ferns S. Ind. t. 69; F. Muell. Fragm. v. 113.

**Queensland.** Rockingham Bay, W. Hill, Dallachy; Port Denison and Daintree River, Fitzalan; Rockhampton, Thozet.