Distinguishing Scaly Male-ferns

Handout for workshop lead by Fred Rumsey, British Pteridological Society & Natural History Museum, at the BSBI / BSS Scottish Annual Meeting on 5th Nov 2016.

From The Illustrated Field Guide to Ferns and Allied Plants of the British Isles, Clive Jermy & Josephine Camus, HMSO, 1993
**LEAVES** up to c. 100 (-200) cm, ovate-lanceolate, base ± tapering, 1-pinnate-pinnatisect, very firm texture, upper surface of lamina very glossy.

**PINNAE** held in plane of leaf, outline even, oblong with long acuminate apex.

**PINNA MIDRIB** with dark mark on underside at junction of pinna and rachis.

**LOWEST PAIR OF PINNAE** ± symmetrical, with the basiscopic pinna segments beside stipe partially adnate to pinna midrib, i.e. not clearly stalked, and no longer than the corresponding acrosopic pinna segments.

**SCALES** dark gold, very dense.

**STIPE** c. 1/6 - 1/5 leaf length.

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**LEAVES** up to c. 100 (-200) cm, lanceolate to oblong, base truncate, 1-pinnate-pinnatisect, texture not very firm, upper surface of lamina not glossy.

**PINNAE** held in plane of leaf, outline uneven, oblong with a short acuminate apex.

**PINNA MIDRIB** with dark, but not always very obvious, mark on underside at junction of pinna and rachis.

**LOWEST PAIR OF PINNAE** asymmetrical, with the basiscopic pinna segments beside stipe usually stalked and slightly larger than the corresponding acrosopic pinna segments.

**SCALES** only moderately dense, pale gold or brown with dark bases.

**STIPE** c. 1/2 - 1/3 leaf length.

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**LEAVES** up to c. 100 (-200) cm, oblong to narrowly elliptical, base tapering, 1-pinnate-pinnatisect, texture firm, upper surface of lamina slightly glossy.

**PINNAE** held at an angle to plane of leaf, outline uneven, oblong to triangular, with a long acuminate apex.

**PINNA MIDRIB** with a dark mark on underside at junction of pinna and rachis.

**LOWEST PAIR OF PINNAE** asymmetrical, with the basiscopic pinna segments beside stipe fully stalked and larger than the corresponding acrosopic pinna segments.

**SCALES** dense, gold to reddish gold.

**STIPE** c. 1/5 - 1/4 leaf length.