MALE FERNS – GLOSSARY

Apogamy (adj. apogamous) – the asexual development of a sporophyte from a cell or cells of the gametophyte other than the egg (a more precise term for apomixis in male ferns)

Apomixis (adj. apomictic) – reproduction without fertilisation (see apogamy)

Diploid – having a chromosome number that is twice the basic (haploid) number

Fertile – producing spores that give rise to a gametophyte bearing viable gametes

Forma (pl. formae) – a taxonomic ranking, outside the formal rules of the Botanical Code, denoting an apparently distinct form that might, if researched, be considered taxonomically distinct from the species named (presented as e.g. 'forma *foliosum*')

Gametophyte – the small flake of green tissue that bears a fern's sex organs; the haploid, gamete-producing, reproductive phase of the fern life-cycle (the 'prothallus' – also see sporophyte)

Haploid – having a single set of chromosomes, as in a gametophyte and a gamete

Hybrid – a combination of two plants of different species or genera, which is usually sterile, though sterility is partially overridden in male ferns by apomixis

'Jizz' – instinctive, subjective, preliminary recognition; the hint perceived by the experienced eye that precedes formal taxonomic diagnosis

Morphotype – a taxonomic ranking, outside the formal rules of the Botanical Code, in which different male ferns were given names that did not specify relationships

Objective – not influenced by personal interpretations, feelings or prejudice; based on facts; unbiased (as opposed to subjective)

Polyploid – having a chromosome complement that is a multiple of the basic diploid number: triploid, tetraploid, pentaploid, hexaploid etc.

Prothallus – see Gametophyte

Sporophyte – the dominant, diploid, spore-producing phase of the fern life-cycle (the fern itself – see gametophyte/prothallus)

Sterile – failing to produce spores, or producing spores that fail to give rise to viable gametes

Variety – a taxonomic rank below that of species and subspecies. Presented as e.g. var. 'Cristata'