

Ferns of Africa

KEY TO THE GENUS VITTARIA

1.a. Sori marginal	<i>V. elongata</i>
1.b. Sori submarginal	2
2.a. Base of stipe brown-green	3
2.b. Base of stipe dark chestnut to black	5
3.a. Lamina narrow (up to 3 mm wide)	4
3.b. Lamina broad (3-8 mm wide)	<i>V. ensiformis</i>
4.a. Lamina short (to 20 cm), rhizome scales entire	<i>V. owariensis</i>
4.b. Lamina longer (to 65 cm), rhizome scales pseudoserrate	<i>V. isoetifolia</i>
5.a. Lamina midrib raised	6
5.b. Lamina midrib not prominent	7
6.a. Lamina broad (2-4.5 (-9) mm wide), rhizome scales narrow in the lower part and gradually tapering	<i>V. volkensisii</i>
6.b. Lamina up to 5 mm wide, rhizome scales broader in lower part and less gradually tapering	<i>V. reekmansii</i>

7.a. Lamina short and narrow (up to 7 cm long and 2.5-4.5 mm wide), Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea only	<i>V. schaeferi</i>
7.b. Lamina longer	8
8.a. Lamina up to 1.2 cm wide, stipe slender, black	<i>V. guineensis</i>
8.b. Lamina 1.2-2 cm wide, frond sessile, Tanzania only	<i>V. schliebenii</i>

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