



Photographs by Ian Barclay

Trunk of fern

Flat, whitish-tan hairlike scales on the fronds

AUSTRALIAN TREE FERN **PEST ALERT!**

Call MoMISC at 808-553-5236 if you see this plant.

Australian tree fern (*Sphaeropteris cooperi*) is a fast growing tree fern that invades native habitats and outcompetes native tree ferns, which are similar in appearance. They grow up to 40 feet tall, blocking out sunlight with their large fronds, and multiply much more quickly than native *hapu'u*. They reproduce from spores, which can spread over 7 miles from the parent plant (Molokai is only 10 miles by 30 miles at its widest points). On just a portion of Kauai for control efforts are anticipated to cost over \$50,000 per year (for ~13,000 acres) to contain this invasive fern. It is not yet naturalized on Molokai. Please help keep Molokai's native forests intact by not growing this fern and by reporting any sightings of it.