

Adiantum L MAIDENHAIR, MAIDENHAIR FERN

Adiantum jordanii Müller Halle, CALIFORNIA MAIDENHAIR. Perennial herb, drought-deciduous and summer-dormant, rhizomatous, fibrous-rooted, canopy open with ascending, spreading, and drooping to pendent leaves, < 55 cm tall; shoots glabrous; young fiddleheads ca. 4 mm diameter; rhizomes creeping, axis 70+ × 2–3.5 mm, black, densely scaly, bearing hairy adventitious roots and persistent petiole bases, the scales lanceolate, 1–2.5 × 0.3–0.7 mm, brown to dark reddish brown, entire, acuminate at tip. **Leaves (fronds):** helically alternate, odd-2–3-pinnately compound to 1-pinnate compound above midpoint, 150–550(–750) mm long, petiolate; petiole (stipe) channeled (when dry sometimes initial channel appearing as several grooves), 50–300 mm long, 1–2 mm wide at base, glossy brownish to dark red-brown or blackish, bearing widely spaced scales like on rhizome, the scales long-tapered lanceolate, < 4 × 0.4–1 mm, translucent-red, very thin, entire, not easily dislodged; blade lanceolate to ovate or triangular in outline, 100–450 × 30–210 mm, with 10–19 primary divisions, the divisions alternate and widely spaced above; rachis wirelike, straight at base changing to slightly zigzagged above, glossy brownish to dark red-brown or blackish; secondary axes diverging from main axis 30–60°, very slightly zigzagged, sometimes arching; petiolules 0.4–8.5 mm long, thin, the longer ones flexible; blades of ultimate leaflets (pinnules) fan-shaped to semicircular or kidney-shaped and often asymmetric, 4.5–27 × 4–16.5 mm, thin, 0–8-lobed, dull light green, broadly tapered to somewhat cordate and asymmetric at base, minutely dentate on upper margin when sterile except where folded under to form false indusium, the sinuses between lobes 0.6–4 mm deep with central sinus the deepest, dichotomously veined, the veins free at tips, abruptly pale green or green and sharply differentiated from reddish brown of petiolule, with each vein terminating in a short tooth; false indusia to 7 per leaflet (± corresponding to number of lobes), 0.4–1.2 × 2–12 mm. **Sori:** absent. **Sporangia:** ± 0.2 mm wide, brown, forming submarginally on lower surface under false indusium. **Spores:** yellowish brown.

Native. Perennial herb, fully terrestrial and occasionally found in shaded canyons of SMM and SH in southern oak woodland or on slopes under tall chaparral shrubs. *Adiantum jordanii* may occur within meters of *A. capillus-veneris*, which instead is fully aquatic and evergreen, whereas the terrestrial species is drought-deciduous and produces new leaves stimulated by winter rains, commonly beginning growth in December.

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