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*Platycerium hillii*

[Synonyms : *Platycerium bifurcatum* var. *hillii*]

**NORTHERN ELKHORN FERN** is an evergreen epiphytic fern. Native to Queensland (Australia) it has shorter overlapping papery, dark green sterile fronds and longer arching leathery, pale grey-green fertile fronds.

It is also known as Green staghorn, and Stiff staghorn.

*Hillii* commemorates an English physician, actor and writer, John Hill (1716-1775). He collected plant specimens in Britain for Lord Petre (1713-1742) of Thorndon Hall in Essex from 1738 and had three similar commissions from 1739-1740 one of them from Charles Lennox, 2<sup>nd</sup> Duke of Richmond under whose patronage he fell until 1742. From 1746 to 1750 he edited the *British Magazine* and wrote prolifically on subjects ranging from natural history, medicine, geology and astronomy to naval history and theology, as well as plays, novels and articles for magazines including *The London Advertiser* and *Literary Gazette* (the latter two under the pseudonym 'The Inspector'). After receiving the Order of Vasa (the most junior Swedish award of chivalry) from Gustav III of Sweden in 1775 he adopted the name 'Sir' John Hill. Among his published works are *Vegetable System* (26 volumes) , and *Eden, or, A compleat body of gardening: containing plain and familiar directions for the raising the several useful products of a garden, fruits, roots, and herbage... .*