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Polystichum aculeatum

[Synonyms : *Aspidium aculeatum*, *Aspidium lobatum*, *Polypodium aculeatum*, *Polypodium lobatum*, *Polystichum lobatum*]

HARD SHIELD FERN is an evergreen fern. Native to Europe it has short arching glossy dark green fronds.

It is also known as *Gelappter Schildfarn* (German), Hard prickly shield fern, *Ibhig Chruaidh* (Scots Gaelic), *Kapradina laločnatá* (Czech), *Papraďovec laločnatý* (Slovak), *Piikkihärkylä* (Finnish), *Polystic Lobé* (German), Prickly shield fern, and *Uddbräken* (Swedish).

Aculeatum is derived from Latin *aculeus* (point, sting) meaning ‘prickly’ with reference to the plant bearing spines or spine-tipped leaves.

This fern is cultivated as an ornamental.