

## Original Research Article

# Revised Classification of Pteridophytes of Ethiopia and Eritrea

### ABSTRACT

**Aims:** To conduct an in-depth inventory of the pteridophytes of Ethiopia and Eritrea, classifying them based on the Pteridophyte Phylogeny Group I (PPG I), in order to conform to the new trends in pteridophyte classification.

**Study design:** The desktop research approach

**Place and Duration of Study:** Samples for this study were collected from different areas in Ethiopia and Eritrea. These are neighbouring countries situated in northeast Africa, in the area known as 'The Horn of Africa'. Collections were made between August 2021 and March 2023.

**Methodology:** The desktop research approach was applied in this study. Secondary data on species of pteridophytes of Ethiopia and Eritrea that was obtained through a compilation published in 2009 by groups of researchers from the National Herbarium of the University of Addis Ababa and Uppsala University of Sweden through the Department of Systematic Biology. It was published in the Volume I of the '*Flora of Ethiopia and Eritrea*'. It comprised of 36 families, 78 genera and 192 species of pteridophytes. The classification of these species mainly followed the concept of PichiSermolli.

**Results:** This study has therefore produced a comprehensive checklist of documented species of pteridophytes in Ethiopia and Eritrea. It is comprised of 192 species, 76 genera and 27 families.

**Conclusion:** This study has revised the classification of pteridophytes of Ethiopia and Eritrea to conform to the PPG I classification approach. This resulted in 27 families, 76 genera and 192 species, with changes recorded at all levels of classification except the number of species. This outcome is therefore suggested to be applied in the herbaria and adopted by researchers of pteridophytes in Ethiopia and Eritrea, for ease of communication internationally.

*Keywords: Pteridophytes, fern, checklist, Aspleniaceae, Ethiopia, Eritrea*

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Pteridophytes are known to be the most diverse group of vascular plants in the world and are the oldest lineage of vascular plants worldwide and the second-most specious after angiosperms [1]. Recently, pteridophytes have attracted a lot of attention. It has been discovered that they were the first plants to emerge after the K-pg asteroid event which smashed into the planet [2]. The same researchers discovered that, though dinosaurs were lost, forests were leveled and four out of five species of plants went extinct in areas close to the impact site, the first life to recolonize these areas was the pteridophytes. Pteridophytes are often found where volcanic eruptions have occurred. According to [3], they recover much more quickly than other organisms following exposure. It has also been found that the genomes of ferns are

relatively large, comparable to that of the largest genome, *Paris japonica* [4], [5]. The importance of these plants to humanity therefore has to be investigated. Species of pteridophytes across the world are estimated to be about 11,916 [6]. Africa and Madagascar have an estimated 1,441 species [7]. For most pteridophytes, their simple structure, small forms, rhizome structures, spore producing ability and minute ecological requirements makes them great competitors and give them the ability to form dense colonies. As a result, they serve important functions in ecosystem processes such as being primary producers and ecological successors [8]. Pteridophytes are also said to serve as good bioindicators of climate change [9]. They also provide habitat and shade for smaller organisms, as well as preventing soil erosion [8]. Some genera of pteridophytes including *Asplenium*, *Microsorium*, and *Marattia* are used as ornamentals [9]. Pteridophytes also contain large amounts of secondary plant metabolites such as alkaloids [10], flavonoids [11], polyphenols [12], terpenoids [13], and steroids [14]. As a result, they act as source of fodder for cattle [15], and food for smaller animal such as caterpillars and insects. Some Pteridophytes are also used as food sources in sub-Saharan Africa, such as *Pteridium aquilinum* (L.) Kuhn in Angola, Cameroon, Nigeria and South Africa [16], *Ophioglossum reticulatum* L. in South Africa, Swaziland and Zanzibar, *Ceratopteris thalictroides* (L.) Brongn. in Madagascar and Swaziland, *Nephrolepis biserrata* Sw. in DRC and Nigeria [17],[18] and *Ophioglossum polyphyllum* A. Braun in Namibia and South Africa [19]. They are either eaten cooked as vegetables (66.7%) or raw as salad (12.5% each). Literature search revealed that some of the documented pteridophytes have high macro and micro nutrient content which are important for the maintenance of good health and prevention of diseases. Effective classification of these plants is therefore the basic requirement to further understanding of their other functions which is the focus of this study.

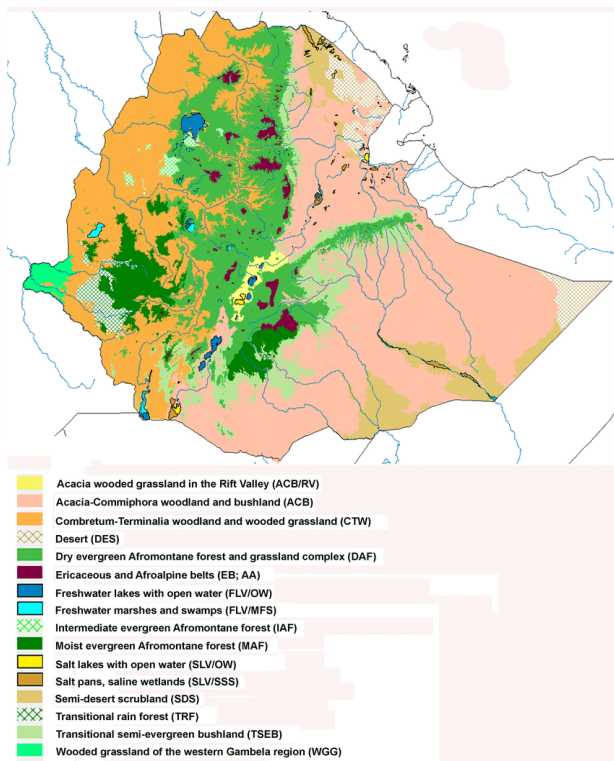
Ethiopia and Eritrea are both situated in the eastern part of Africa and are characterized by high temperatures and severe dry season. Though these two countries have been reported to be highly impoverished in terms of flora [8], a detailed inventory of pteridophytes will establish the state of preservation of what is available. The assemblages of species of pteridophytes of Ethiopia and Eritrea have been compiled through the National Herbarium of Addis Ababa and The Department of Systematic Biology, Uppsala University Sweden in 2009 by a group of researchers from these two institutions [21]. It was published in the Volume I of the Flora of Ethiopia and Eritrea. It contained 36 families, 78 genera and 192 species of pteridophytes, which mainly followed the concept of Pichi Sermolli [22].

The PPG I [6] established a new approach for the classification of pteridophytes called a 'Community-based approach'. This classification is a comprehensive classification for lycophytes and ferns, from class level down to the genus level. This approach used monophyly as the primary criterion for the recognition of taxa based on morphological and molecular data.

The aim of this study was to conduct an in-depth inventory of the pteridophytes of Ethiopia and Eritrea, classifying them based on the PPG I [6] in order to conform to the new trends in pteridophyte classification.

## 2. MATERIAL AND METHODS

Ethiopia is situated in northeast Africa, in the area known as 'The Horn of Africa'. It is bordered by Eritrea, Sudan, South Sudan, Kenya, Somalia, the self-proclaimed separatist territory of Somaliland and Djibouti. Encompassing an area of 1,104,300 km<sup>2</sup> and it is completely landlocked and located between approximately E 32°58'00" to E 48°00'00" and 30°25'00" N to 14°55'00" N. This country has a diverse climate and landscape, ranging from equatorial rain forest with high rainfall and humidity in the South and Southwest, to Afro-Alpine on summits of the Simien and Bale Mountains, to desert-like conditions in the north-east, east and South east lowlands. Overall, Ethiopia is considered largely arid, but exhibits a high variability of precipitation. Ethiopia is the second most populous country in Africa and has a population over 120.3 million people (2021). Ethiopia has the fifth highest biodiversity in Africa [23]. Consequently, these highlands have formed unique vegetation types (Figure 1).



Source: [www.google.com](http://www.google.com)

Figure 1: Vegetation map of Ethiopia

Eritrea on the other hand lies in the northeastern corner of the Horn of Africa, bordered by Ethiopia, Sudan and Djibouti with a coastal front along the Red Sea with a population of about 3.17 million people. Habitats and ecosystems found in

Eritrea include Juniperus forests, riverine forests, coral reefs and traditional farming systems. A total of 700 plants have been recorded in Eritrea. Eritrea is also recognized as a centre of origin and centre of diversity for a number of crops, notably the cereals: sorghum, wheat and barley. Eritrea has suffered one of the most severe cases of environmental degradation following 30 years of armed struggle, persistent drought and environmental neglect. Having once had significant natural resources, fertile land, dense forests and high rates of wildlife, the country's environmental resources are now denuded with fragile and fragmented ecosystems (Figure 2).



Source: [www.google.com](http://www.google.com)

**Figure 2: Vegetation map of Eritrea**

Ethiopia and Eritrea are neighbouring countries. Initially they were one country following the Second World War, where Eritrea was federated with Ethiopia in 1952. Eritrea finally regained its independence from Ethiopia in 1991. These countries have a diverse climate and landscape, ranging from equatorial rain forest with high rainfall and humidity in the South and Southwest, to Afro-Alpine forests on summits of Mountains, to desert-like conditions in the north-east, east and South east lowlands. Overall, Ethiopia and Eritrea are considered largely arid, but exhibit a high variability of precipitation.

## 2.1 Data collection

The desktop research approach was applied in this study. Secondary data on species of Pteridophytes of Ethiopia and Eritrea that was obtained through a compilation of information on pteridophytes published in 2009 by groups of researchers from the National Herbarium of the University of Addis Ababa and Uppsala University of Sweden through the Department of Systematic Biology [21]. It was published in the Volume I of the Flora of Ethiopia and Eritrea. It comprised of 36 families, 78 genera and 192 species of pteridophytes. The classification of these species mainly followed the concept of PichiSermolli [22].

## 2.2 Data analysis

Microsoft Excel 2010 was used for data treatment and preparation of the checklist. Diagnostic characters were determined for use in the classification. All species were then re-classified according to the PPG 1 [6] approach.

## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Pteridophyte Phylogeny Group I in 2016 established a new approach for the classification of pteridophytes called a 'Community-based approach'. This classification is a comprehensive classification for lycophytes and ferns, from class level down to the genus level. This approach used monophyly as the primary criterion for the recognition of taxa based on morphological and molecular revolution with the aim of narrowing the concept. This system was established as a summary statement of current hypotheses, derived from the best available data and shaped by those most familiar with the plants in question [6]. Table 1 presents the pteridophytes of Ethiopia and Eritrea from the Volume 1 of the Flora of Ethiopia and Eritrea [21].

It contained 36 families, 78 genera and 192 species of Pteridophytes, which mainly followed the concept of PichiSermolli[22]. This classification is grounded in evolutionary principles and is therefore phylogenetic [6]. This classification system is good in that; it tells the evolutionary history about the plant, it does not aim to place species in any sort of order and informs about the biological processes that leads to biological diversity. The limitations to this system of classification are that; closely-related species may not always look more alike, while groups that are not closely related yet evolved under similar conditions may appear more similar to each other, in phylogenetic trees, branches do not usually account for length of time and only depict evolutionary order.

**Table 1: Inventory of Pteridophytes in the Flora of Ethiopia and Eritrea, with comments on what would change under the PPG I system**

S/N	Family	Genera	Species	Comments
1.	Lycopodiaceae (6 species)	<i>Huperzia</i> Bernh.	<i>H. dactyloides</i> (Baker) Pic.Serm. <i>H. saururus</i> (Lam.) Trevis. <i>H. verticillata</i> (L.f.) Trellis. <i>H.opbioglossoides</i> (Lam.)	No change

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Rolliin.

*Lycopodiella* *L. clavatum* L. No change

Holub

*Lycopodium* L. *L. cernua* (L.) Pic.Senn. No change

2. Selaginellaceae  
(8 species)

*Selaginella* P. *S. caffrorum* (Milde) No change

Beauv.

Hieron.

*S. goudotiana* Spring

*S. imbricata* (Forssk.)

Spring ex Decne

*S. kraussiaaa* (Kunze) A.

Braun

*S. phillipsiana* (Hieron.)

Alston

*S. yemensis* (Sw.)

Spring

*S. kalbreyeri* Baker

*S. tenerrima* A. Braun ex

Kuhn

3. Isoetaceae  
(3 species)

*Isoetes* L.

*I. aequinoctialis* Welw. ex No change

A. Braun

*I. schweinfurthii* A. Braun

ex Baker

*I. alstonii* C.F. Reed &

Verde.

4.	Equisetaceae (1 species)	<i>Equisetum</i> L.	<i>E. ramosissimum</i> Desf	No change
5.	Ophioglossaceae (9 species)	<i>Botrychium</i> Sw.	<i>B. chamaeconium</i> Bitter & Hieron.	No change
		<i>Ophioglossum</i> L.	<i>O.</i> <i>caroticaule</i> J.E. Burrows. <i>O. costatum</i> R.Br. <i>O. gomezianum</i> Welw. ex A. Broun. <i>O. luso-africanum</i> Welw. ex Prantl. <i>O. polyphyllum</i> A. Braun. <i>O. reticulatum</i> L. <i>O. rubellum</i> Welw. ex A. Braun. <i>O. vulgatum</i> L. subsp. <i>africanum</i> Pocock ex J.E. Burrows.	No change
6.	Marattiaceae (1 species)	<i>Marattia</i> Sw.	<i>M. fraxinea</i> Sm.	No change
7.	Osmundaceae (1 species)	<i>Osmunda</i> L.	<i>O. regalis</i> L.	No change
8.	Gleicheniaceae (1 species)	<i>Dicranopteris</i> Bernh.	<i>D. linearis</i> (Burm. f.) Underw.	
9.	Grammitidaceae (2 species)	<i>Melpomene</i> A.R. Sm. & R.C. Moran.	<i>M. flabelliformis</i> (Poir.) A.R. Sm. & R.C. Moran.	<i>Melpomene</i> has been moved to Polypodiaceae.

Circumscription

sensu

[24], [25].

10. Polypodiaceae  
(10 species)

*Lellingeria* A.R. *L. oosora* (Balrer)A.R. *Lellingeria* has been  
Sm. & R.C. Sm. & R.C Moran. moved to  
Moran. Polypodiaceae

*Platyserium* Desv. *P. elephantotis* Schweinf No change

*Pyrrhosia* Mirb. *P. schimperiana* (Kuhn) No change  
Alston.

*Drynaria* (Bory) J. *D. volkensis* Hieron. *Drynaria* has been  
Sm. included in  
*Aglaomorpha*, under  
Polypodiaceae  
Circumscription  
newly proposed in  
PPG I [6].

*Lepisorus* (J.Sm.) *L. excavatus* (Willd.) No change  
Ching. Ching.  
*L. schraderi* (Mett.)  
Ching.

*Microsorium* Link. *M. punctatum* (L.) Copel. No change

*Phymatosorus* *P. scolopendria* (Burm. f) *Phymatosorus* has  
Pic. Serm. Pic. Sum. been moved to  
*Microsorium*.  
Circumscription

Sensu [26].

*Pleopeltis* Willd. *P. macrocarpa* (Willd.) Kaulf. No change

*Polypodium* L. *P. polypodioides* (L.) Watt. No change

*Loxogramme* (Blum.) C Presl. *L. abyssinica* (Baker) M.G. Price. No change

11. Anemiaceae (1 species) *Anemia* Sw. *A. schimperiana* C.Presl. No change

12. Negripteridaceae (2 species) *Negripteris* Pic. Serm. *N. scioana* (Chiov.) Pic.Serm. *N. tricholepifera* Pic.Serm. *Negripteris* has been moved to *Cheilanthes* under the Pteridaceae Circumscription sensu [27].

13. Sinopteridaceae (17 species) *Aspidotis* (Nutt. ex Hook.) Copel. *A. scimperi* (Kunze) Pic.Serm. *Aspidotis* has been moved to Pteridaceae. Circumscription sensu Smith et al. (2006b)

*Notholaena* R.Br. *N. marantae* (L.) Desv. *Notholaena* has been moved to Pteridaceae Circumscription sensu [28].

*Pellaea* Link.      *P. doniana* Hook.      *Pellaea* has been  
*P. longipilosa* Bonap.      moved to  
*P. dura* (Willd.) Hook.      Pteridaceae  
*P. calomelanos* (Sw.)      Circumscription  
Link.      sensu [28].  
*P. viridis* (Forssk.)  
Prantl.  
*P. quadripinnata*  
(Forssk.) Prantl

*Doryopteris* J.      *D. concolor* (Langsd. &      *Doryopteris* has been  
Sm.      Fisch.) Kuhn.      moved to  
Pteridaceae  
Circumscription  
sensu [28].

*Cheilanthes* Sw.      *C. farinosa* (Forssk.)      *Cheilanthes* has been  
Kaulf. *C. multifida* (Sw.)      moved to  
Sw.      Pteridaceae  
*C. bergiana* Schldl.      Circumscription  
*C. hirta* Sw.      sensu [28].  
*C. coriacea* Decne.  
*C. erythraea* Pic.Serm.  
*C. acrosticha* (Balbis)  
Tod.  
*C. vellea* (Ait.) F. Muell.

14. Cryptogrammaceae      *Onychium* Kaulf.      *O. divaricatum* (Poir.)      *Onychium* has been  
(1 species)      Alslon.      moved to

Pteridaceae

Circumscription

sensu [28].

15. Actiniopteridaceae  
(3 species)

*Actiniopteris* Link.

*A. radiata* (Sw.) Link

*A. dimorpha* Pic. Serm.

*A. semiflabellata* Pic.

Serm.

*Actiniopteris* Link has

been moved to

Pteridaceae

Circumscription

sensu [28].

16. Pteridaceae  
(9 species)

*Pteris* L.

*P. vittata* L.

*P. cretica* L.

*P. hamulosa* (Christin)

Christin

*P. tripartita* Sw. in

Schrad.

*P. buchananii* Sim.

*P. pteridioides* (Hook.)

Ballard.

*P. dentate* Forssk.

*P. linearis* Poir.

*P. catoptera* Kunze

No change

17. Adiantaceae  
(7 species)

*Adiantum* L.

*A. balfouri* Baker.

*A. incisum* Forssk.

*A. lunulatum* Bunn.f.

*A. hispidulum* Sw.

*A. capillus-veneris* L.

*A. poiretii* Wikstr.

*A. raddianum* C. Presl.

*Adiantum* L. has

been moved to

Pteridaceae

Circumscription

sensu [28].

18. Hemionitidaceae (2 species)	<i>Anogramma</i> Link.	<i>A. leptophylla</i> (L.) Link.	No change
	<i>Coniogramme</i> Fee.	<i>C. africana</i> Hieron.	<i>Coniogramme</i> has been moved to Pteridaceae Circumscription sensu [28].
19. Vittariaceae (3 species)	<i>Vittaria</i> J. Sm.	<i>V. guineensis</i> Desv. <i>V. volkensis</i> Hieron.	<i>Vittaria</i> has been moved to Pteridaceae Circumscription sensu [28].
	<i>Antrophyum</i> Kaulf.	<i>A. manianum</i> Hook.	<i>Antrophyum</i> has been moved to Pteridaceae Circumscription sensu [28].
20. Parkeriaceae (1 species)	<i>Ceratopteris</i> Brongn.	<i>C. thalictroides</i> (L.) Brongn.	<i>Ceratopteris</i> has been moved to Pteridaceae Circumscription sensu [28].
21. Marsileaceae (Pilulariaceae) (8 species)	<i>Marsilea</i> L.	<i>M. aegyptiaca</i> Willd. <i>M. aethiopica</i> Launert. <i>M. coromandelina</i> Willd. <i>M. farinosa</i> Launert.	No change

			<i>M. gibba</i> A. Braun.	
			<i>M. minuta</i> L.	
			<i>M. vera</i> Launert.	
		<i>Pilularia</i> L.	<i>P. americana</i> A. Braun.	No change
22. Hymenophyllaceae (6 species)	<i>Hymenophyllum</i> Sm.	<i>H. capillare</i> Desv. <i>H. hirsutum</i> (L.) Sw. <i>H. kuhnii</i> C. Chr.		No change
	<i>Didymoglossum</i> Desv.	<i>D. erosum</i> (Willd.) & Beentje.		No change
	<i>Crepidomanes</i> (C. Presl) C. Presl.	<i>C. melanotrichum</i> (Schtdl.) J.P. Roux.		No change
	<i>Polyphlebium</i> Copel.	<i>P. borbonicum</i> (Bosch) Ebihara & Dubuisson.		No change
23. Cyatheaceae (1 species)	<i>Cyathea</i> Sm.	<i>C. manniana</i> Hook.		No change
24. Dennstaedtiaceae (1 species)	<i>Microlepia</i> C. Presl.	<i>M. spelunca</i> (L.) T. Moore.		No change
25. Hypolepidaceae (5 species)	<i>Blotiella</i> R.M Tryon.	<i>B. glabra</i> (Bory) R.M. Tryon.		<i>Blotiella</i> R.M has been moved to Dennstaedtiaceae Circumscription sensu [28].

*Histiopteris* (J. Agardh) J. Sm. *B. incisa* (Thunb.) J. Sm. *Histiopteris* has been moved to Dennstaedtiaceae  
Circumscription sensu [28].

*Hypolepis* Bernh. *H. goetzci* Hieron. ex Reimers (1934) *H. sparsisora* (Schrad) Kuhn. *Hypolepis* has been moved to Dennstaedtiaceae.  
Circumscription sensu [28].

*Pteridium* Gled. ex Scop. *P. aquilinum* (L.) Kuhn subsp. *Capense* (Thunb.) C. Chr. *Pteridium* has been moved to Dennstaedtiaceae.  
Circumscription sensu [28].

26. Thelypteridaceae  
(11 species)

*Amauropelta* Kunze. *A. oppositifolmi* (C. Chr.) Holttum. *A. bergiana* (Schltdl.) Holttum. No change

*Pseudocyclosorus* Ching. *P. pulcher* (Willd.) Holttum. No change

*Christella* Lev. *C. hispidula* (Decne.) Holttum. *C. dentata* (Forssk.) Brownsey & Jermy. No change

*C. gueinziana* (Mett.)

Holttum.

*C. chaseana* (Schelpe)

Holttum.

*Stegnogramma* *S. pozoii* (Lagasca) K. No change

Blume. Iwatsuki.

*Thelypteris* Schmi *T. confluens* (Thunb.) No change

del. Morton.

*Cyclosorus* link. *C. interruptus* (Willd.) H. No change

Ito.

*Pneumatopteris* *P. unita* (Kunze) Holttum No change

Nakai.

27. Aspleniaceae

(36 species)

*Asplenium* L. *A. dalhousiae* Hook.

(1837) No change

*A. phillipsia* num

(Kummerle) Bir, Fraser-

Jenk & Lovis.

*A. sandersonii* Hook.

*A. monanthes* L.

*A. elliotii* C. H. Wright

*A. adamsii* Alston.

*A. erythraeum* Pic.

Serm.

*A. friesiorum*. C. Chr.

*A. warneckeii* Hieron.

*A. unilaterale* Lam.

*A. formosum* Willd.

*A. erectum* Bory ex

Willd.

*A. trichomanes* L. subsp.

*quadrivalens* D.E. Mey

emend. Lovis.

*A. smedsii* Pic. Serm.

*A. inaequilaterale* Bory

ex Willd.

*A. mannii* Hook.

*A. ceii* Pic. Serm.

*A. protensum* Schrad.

*A. dregeanum* Kunze.

*A. bugoiense* Hieron.

*A. hypomelas* Kuhn

*A. linckii* Kuhn.

*A. uhligii* Hieron.

*A. demerkense* Hieron.

*A. balense* Chaerle &

Viane.

*A. stuhlmannii* Hieron.

*A. buettneri* Hieron. ex

Brause.

*A. aethiopicum* (Burm.f.)

Bech.

*A. lividum* Mett. ex Kuhn.

*A. theciferum* (HBK)

Mett.

*A. adiantum-nigrum* L.

*A. abyssinicum* Fee.

*A. pumilum* Sw.

*A. stipicellatum* Pic.Serm.

*A. cordatum* (Thunb.)

Sw.

*A. ceterach* L.

28. Woodsiaceae  
(5 species)

*Hypodematium*

Kunze.

*D. crenatum* (Forssk.)

Kuhn.

*Hypodematium* has  
been moved to  
Hypodematiaceae.  
Circumscription  
sensu [29].

*Cystopteris* Bernh

*C. fragilis* (L.) Bernh.

*Cystopteris* has been  
moved to  
Cystopteridaceae.  
Circumscription  
sensu [30].

*Lunathyrium* Koid

z.

*L. boryanum* (Willd.) H.

Ohba.

*Lunathyrium* has  
been moved to the  
new family  
Athyriaceae.  
Circumscription  
sensu [31].

*Athyrium* Roth.

*A. scandicinum* (Willd.)

C. Presl.

*A. schimperi* Moug. ex

Fee.

*Athyrium* is now  
under Athyriaceae.  
Circumscription  
sensu [30].



	<i>Polystichum</i> Roth.	<i>P. magnificum</i> F. Ballard. <i>P. transvaalense</i> N. C. Anthony. <i>P. wilsonii</i> H. Christ.	<i>Polystichum</i> is now a genus under Dryopteridaceae. Circumscription sensu [35].
30. Tectariaceae (3 species)	<i>Ctenitis</i> (C. Chr.) C. Chr.	<i>C. cirrhosa</i> (Schumacher.) Ching.	<i>Ctenitis</i> is now a genus under Dryopteridaceae. Circumscription sensu [35].
	<i>Megalastrum</i> Holttum.	<i>M. lanuginosum</i> (Willd.) ex Kaulf) Holttum.	<i>Megalastrum</i> is now a genus under Dryopteridaceae. Circumscription sensu [35].
	<i>Tectaria</i> Cav.	<i>T. gemmifera</i> (Fee) Alston.	No change
31. Lomariopsidaceae (6 species)	<i>Bolbitis</i> Schott.	<i>B. heudelotii</i> (Bory de Fee) Alston.	<i>Bolbitis</i> is now a genus under Dryopteridaceae. Circumscription sensu [35].
	<i>Elaphoglossum</i> Schott ex J. Sm.	<i>E. acrostichoides</i> (Hook. & Grev.) Schelpe. <i>E. aubertii</i> (Desv.) T.	<i>Elaphoglossum</i> is now a genus under Dryopteridaceae.

			Moore.	Circumscription
			<i>E. deckenii</i> (Kuhn)	sensu [35].
			C.Chr.	
			<i>E. hybridum</i> (Bary)	
			Brack.	
			<i>E. lastii</i> (Baker) C.Chr.	
32.	Nephrolepidaceae (1 species)	<i>Nephrolepis</i> Schott.	<i>N. biserrata</i> (Sw.) Schott.	No change
			<i>N. undulata</i> (Afzel. ex SW.) J.Sm.	
33.	Oleandraceae (3 species)	<i>Arthropteris</i> J.Sm ex Hook.f.	<i>A. monocarpa</i> (Cordem.) C.Chr.	<i>Arthropteris</i> is a genus under the
			<i>A. orientallis</i> (J.F. Gmel) Posth.	Tectariaceae. Circumscription sensu [36].
		<i>Oleandra</i> Cav.	<i>O. distenta</i> Kunze.	No change
34.	Davalliaceae (1 species)	<i>Davallia</i> Sm.	<i>D. denticulata</i> (Burn.f.) Mett. ex Kuhn.	No change
35.	Blechnaceae (2 species)	<i>Blechnum</i> L.	<i>B. attenuatum</i> (Sw.) Mett.	No change
			<i>B. tabulare</i> (Thumb.) Kuhn.	
36.	Azollaceae (1 species)	<i>Azolla</i> Lam.	<i>A. nilotica</i> Decne. ex Mett.	<i>Azolla</i> is now a genus under Salviniaceae

The Pteridophytes of Ethiopia and Eritrea were adjusted to conform to PPG I [6] classification system. As a result of this adjustment, the number of families reduced from 36 to 27 and the number of genera from 78 to 76. In all this, the number of species remained unchanged (192 species) since no circumscription was done at their level (Table 2). Four species were moved from one genus to another (*Drynaria* merged with *Aglaomorpha*, *Phymatosorus* merged with *Microsorium*, *Negripteris* merged with *Cheilanthes* and *Nothoperanema* merged with *Dryopteris*) and 30 genera moved from one family to another, for example; *Melpomene* and *Lellingeria* moved from Grammitidaceae to Polypodiaceae [24], [25], *Ctenitis* moved from Tectariaceae to Dryopteridaceae [35], *Azolla* moved from Azollaceae to Salviniaceae [28] Table 2. All of these changes were done because monophyly is the primary criterion for the recognition of taxa in PPG I [6]. So, genera that were paraphyletic were moved when they became monophyletic.

**Table 2: Pteridophyte genera that were merged and those moved from one family to another**

S/N	Genera	Old families	New families	References
1.	<i>Melpomene</i>	Grammitidaceae	Polypodiaceae	[24], [25].
2.	<i>Lellingeria</i>	Grammitidaceae	Polypodiaceae	[24], [25].
3.	<i>Drynaria</i> now merges with <i>Aglaomorpha</i>	Polypodiaceae	Polypodiaceae	[6]
4.	<i>Phymatosorus</i> now merges with <i>Microsorium</i>	Polypodiaceae	Polypodiaceae	[26]
5.	<i>Negripteris</i> now merges with <i>Cheilanthes</i>	Negripteridaceae	Pteridaceae	[27]
6.	<i>Aspidotis</i>	Sinopteridaceae	Pteridaceae	[28]
7.	<i>Notholaena</i>	Sinopteridaceae	Pteridaceae	[28]

8.	<i>Pellaea</i>	Sinopteridaceae	Pteridaceae	[28]
9.	<i>Doryopteris</i>	Sinopteridaceae	Pteridaceae	[28]
10.	<i>Cheilanthes</i>	Sinopteridaceae	Pteridaceae	[28]
11.	<i>Onychium</i>	Cryptogrammaceae	Pteridaceae	[28]
12.	<i>Actiniopteris</i>	Actiniopteridaceae	Pteridaceae	[28]
13.	<i>Adiantum</i>	Adiantaceae	Pteridaceae	[28]
14.	<i>Coniogramme</i>	Hemionitidaceae	Pteridaceae	[28]
15.	<i>Vittaria</i>	Vittariaceae	Pteridaceae	[28]
16.	<i>Antrophyum</i>	Vittariaceae	Pteridaceae	[28]
17.	<i>Ceratopteris</i>	Parkeriaceae	Pteridaceae	[28]
18.	<i>Blotiella</i>	Hypolepidaceae	Dennstaedtiaceae	[28]
19.	<i>Histiopteris</i>	Hypolepidaceae	Dennstaedtiaceae	[28]
20.	<i>Hypolepis</i>	Hypolepidaceae	Dennstaedtiaceae	[28]
21.	<i>Pteridium</i>	Hypolepidaceae	Dennstaedtiaceae	[28]
22.	<i>Hypodematum</i>	Woodsiaceae	Hypodematiaceae	[29]
23.	<i>Cystopteris</i>	Woodsiaceae	Cystopteridaceae	[30]

24.	<i>Lunathyrium</i>	Woodsiaceae	Athyriaceae	[31]
25.	<i>Athyrium</i>	Woodsiaceae	Athyriaceae	[30]
26.	<i>Didymochlaena</i>	Dryopteridaceae	Didymochlaenaceae	[29]
27.	<i>Nothoperanema</i> now merges with <i>Dryopteris</i>	Dryopteridaceae	Dryopteridaceae	[32], [33], [34]
28.	<i>Ctenitis</i>	Tectariaceae	Dryopteridaceae	[35]
29.	<i>Megalastrum</i>	Tectariaceae	Dryopteridaceae	[35]
30.	<i>Bolbitis</i>	Lomariopsidaceae	Dryopteridaceae	[35]
31.	<i>Elaphoglossum</i>	Lomariopsidaceae	Dryopteridaceae	[35]
32.	<i>Arthropteris</i>	Oleandraceae	Tectariaceae	[36]
33.	<i>Azolla</i>	Azollaceae	Salviniaceae	[28]

Three new families were added to the Pteridophytes of Ethiopia and Eritrea, they include; Salviniaceae (which accommodated the genus *Azolla* from Azollaceae), Cystopteridaceae (which accommodates *Cystopteris* from Woodsiaceae) and Athyriaceae (which accommodates *Lunathyrium*, *Athyrium* from Woodsiaceae). Twelve (12) families were removed from the Pteridophytes of Ethiopia and Eritrea due to this conformity, but their genera were transferred to different families. Nine (9) of these families were transferred to Pteridaceae and they include Grammitidaceae, Negripteridaceae, Sinopteridaceae, Cryptogrammeaceae, Actinopteridaceae, Adiantaceae, Vittariaceae, Hemionitidaceae and Pakeriaceae. While Azollaceae's only genus was transferred to Salviniaceae, species of Woodsiaceae were transferred to Hypolepidaceae, Cystopteridaceae and Athyriaceae. Two species from the genus *Negripteris* were transferred to genus *Cheilanthes* in the Pteridaceae. This includes *Negripteris scioana* (Chiov.) Pic.Serm. and

*Negripteristricholepifera* Pic.Serm. Their genus name was changed from *Negripteristocheilanthus* (Table 3). The above changes were made in order for all the taxa to meet up with the criteria of monophyly from paraphyletic [6].

**Table 3: Updated list of Pteridophytes of the Flora of Ethiopia and Eritrea in conformity with PPG I approach of classification**

S/N	Class	Order	Family	Genera	Species
1.	Lycopodiopsida	Lycopodiales	Lycopodiaceae (6 species)	<i>Huperzia</i>	<i>H. dacrydioides</i> (Baker) Pic.Serm. <i>H. saururus</i> (Lam.) Trevis. <i>H. verticillata</i> (L.f.) Trellis. <i>H. opbioglossoides</i> (Lam.) Rolliin.
				<i>Lycopodiella</i>	<i>L. clavatum</i> L.
				<i>Lycopodium</i>	<i>L. cernua</i> (L.) Pic.Senn.
2.		Isoëtales	Isoetaceae (3 species)	<i>Isoetes</i> L.	<i>I.</i> <i>aequinoctialis</i> Welw . Ex A. Braun <i>I. alstonii</i> C.Freed & Verde. <i>I. schweinfurthii</i> A. Braun ex Baker.
3.		Selaginellales	Selaginellaceae	<i>Selaginella</i>	<i>S. caffrorum</i>

(8 species)

(Milde) Hieron.

*S. goudotiana*

Spring.

*S. imbricata*

(Forssk.) Spring ex

Decne

*S. kraussiaaa*

(Kunze) A. Braun

*S. phillipsiana*

(Hieron.) Alston.

*S. yemensis* (Sw.)

Spring.

*S. kalbreyeri* Baker

*S. tenerrima* A.

Braun ex Kuhn.

4. Polypodiopsida

Equisetales

Equisetaceae

*Equisetum* L.

*E.*

(1 species)

*ramosissimum* Desf

5.

Ophioglossales

Ophioglossaceae

*Botrychium*

*B. chamaeconium*

(9 species)

Sw.

Bitter & Hieron.

*Ophioglossum*

*O.*

L.

*caroticaule* J.E. Burr

ows.

*O. costatum* R.Br.

*O.*

*omezianum* Welw.

ex A. Broun.

*O.*

*lusoaffricanum* Welw.

w. ex Prantl.

*O.*

*polyphyllum* A. Braun

n.

*O. reticulatum* L.

*O. rubellum* Welw.

Ex A. Braun

*O. vulgatum* L.

subsp. africanum

Pocock ex J.E.

Burrows

- |    |                 |                                 |  |   |
|----|-----------------|---------------------------------|--|---|
| 6. | Marattiales     | Marattiaceae<br>(1 species)     | <i>Marattia</i> Sw.                            | <i>M. fraxinea</i> Sm.  |
| 7. | Osmundales      | Osmundaceae<br>(1 species)      | <i>Osmunda</i> L.                              | <i>O. regalis</i> L.  |
| 8. | Hymenophyllales | Hymenophyllaceae<br>(6 species) | <i>Hymenophyllum</i><br><i>m</i> Sm.           | <i>B. capillare</i> Desv.<br><i>B. hirsutum</i> (L.)<br>Sw.<br><i>B. kuhnii</i> C. Chr. |
|    |                 |                                 | <i>Didymoglossum</i><br><i>m</i> Desv.         | <i>D. erosum</i> (Willd.)<br>& Beentje.   |
|    |                 |                                 | <i>Crepidomanes</i><br>(C. Presl) C.<br>Presl. | <i>C. melanotrichum</i><br>(Schtdl.) J.P.<br>Roux.                                      |
|    |                 |                                 | <i>Polyphlebium</i>                            | <i>P. borbonicum</i>  |

			Copel.	(Bosch) Ebihara & Dubuisson.
9.	Gleicheniales	Gleicheniaceae (1 species)	<i>Dicranopteris</i> B ernh.	<i>D. linearis</i> (Burm. f.) Underw.
10.	Schizaeales	Anemiaceae (1 species)	<i>Anemia</i> Sw.	<i>A.</i> <i>schimperiana</i> C.Pre sl
11.	Salviniales	Salviniaceae (1 species)	<i>Azolla</i> Lam.	<i>A. nilotica</i> . Decne. ex Mett.
12.	Salviniales	Marsileaceae (8 species)	<i>Marsilea</i> L.	<i>M. aegyptiaca</i> Willd. <i>M.</i> <i>aethiopica</i> Launert. <i>M. coromandelina</i> Willd. <i>M. farinosa</i> Launert <i>M. gibba</i> A.Braun. <i>M. minuta</i> L. <i>M. vera</i> Launert.
			<i>Pilularia</i> L.	<i>P. americana</i> A. Braun
13.	Cyatheales	Cyatheaceae (1 species)	<i>Cyathea</i> Sm.	<i>C. manniana</i> Hook.
14.	Polypodiales	Polypodiaceae (12 species)	<i>Platynerium</i> De sv.	<i>P.</i> <i>elephantotis</i> Schwei nf.
			<i>Pyrrhosia</i> Mirb.	<i>P. schimperiana</i>

(Kuhn) Alston.

*Aglaomorpha* *A. volkensis* Hieron.  
chott.

*Lepisorus* *L. excavatus*  
(J.Sm.) Ching. (Willd.) Ching.  
*L. schraderi* (Mett.)  
Ching.

*Microsorium* *M. punctatum* (L.)  
Link. Copel.  
*M. scolopendria*  
(Burm. f) Pic. Sum.

*Pleopeltis* *P. macrocarpa*  
Willd. (Willd.) Kaulf.

*Polypodium* L. *P. polypodioides*  
(L.) Watt.

*Loxogramme* *L. abyssinica*  
(Blum.) C Presl (Baker) M.G. Price.

*Melpomene* *M. flabelliformis*  
A.R. Sm. & (Poir.) A.R. Sm. &  
R.C. Moran. R.C Moran.

*Lellingeria* A.R. *L. oosora*  
Sm. & R.C. (Balrer)A.R. Sm. &  
Moran. R.C Moran.

15.

Pteridaceae

(43 species)

*Pteris* L.

*P. vittata* L.

*P. cretica* L.

*P. hamulosa*

(Christin) Christin.

*P. tripartita* Sw.

*P. buchananii* Sim.

*P. pteridioides*

(Hook.) Ballard.

*P. dentate*Forssk.

*P. linearis*Poir.

*P. catoptera*

Kunze.

*Adiantum* L.

*A. balfouri* Baker.

*A. incisum*Forssk.

*A.*

*lunulatum*Bunn.f.

*A. hispidulum* Sw.

*A. capillus-veneris*

L.

*A. poiretii*Wikstr.

*A. raddianum* C.

Presl.

*Actiniopteris*Lin

*A. radiata* (Sw.)

k.

Link.

*A. dimorpha* Pic.

Serm.

*A. semiflabellata*

Pic. Serm.

*Onychium* *O. divaricatum*  
Kaulf. (Poir.) Alslon.

*Cheilanthes* *C. farinosa*  
Sw. (Forssk.) Kaulf.  
*C. multifida* (Sw.)  
Sw.  
*C. bergiana* Schtdl.  
*C. hirta* Sw.  
*C. coriacea* Decne.  
C  
*erythraea* Pic. Serm.  
*C. acrosticha*  
(Balbis) Tod.  
*C. vellea* (Ait.) F.  
Muell.

*Aspidotis* (Nutt. *A. schimperi*  
ex Hook.) (Kunze) Pic. Serm.  
Copel.

*Notholaena* *N. marantae* (L.)  
R.Br. Desv.

*Pellaea* Link. *P. doniana* Hook.  
*P. longipilosa*  
Bonap.  
*P. dura* (Willd.)

Hook.

*P. calomelanos*

(Sw.) Link.

*P. viridis* (Forssk.)

Prantl.

*P. quadripinnata*

(Forssk.) Prantl.

*Doryopteris* J. *D. concolor*

Sm. in Hook. (Langsd. & Fisch.)

Kuhn.

*Cheilanthes* *C. scioana* (Chiov.)

Sw., Syn. Fil. *Pic.Serm.*

*C.*

*tricholepifera* *Pic.Se*

*rm.*

*Coniogramme* *C. africana* Hieron.

Fee.

*Vittaria* J. Sm. *V. guineensis*

Desv.

*V. volkensis* Hieron.

*Antrophyum* *A. mannianum*

Kaulf. Hook.

*Ceratopteris* Br *C. thalictroides* (L.)

ongn. Brongn.

*Anogramma* *A. leptophylla.* (L.)  
Link. Link.

16. Dennstaedtiaceae *Microlepia* C. *M. speluncae* (L.)  
e Presl. T. Moore.  
(6 species) *Blotiella* R.M *B. glabra* (Bory)  
Tryon. RM. Tryon.

*Histiopteris* (J. *B. incisa* (Thunb.)  
Agardh) J. Sm. J. Sm.

*Hypolepis* Bern *H. goetzci* Hieron.  
h. ex Reimers  
*H. sparsisora*  
(Schrad) Kuhn.

*Pteridium* Gled. *P. aquilinum* (L.)  
ex Scop. Kuhn subsp.  
Capense (Thunb.)  
C. Chr.

17. Thelypteridaceae *Amauropelta* *A. oppositiformi.*  
(11 species) Kunze. (C. Chr.) Holttum.  
A.  
*bergiana*(Schltdl.)  
Holttum.

*Pseudocycloso* *P. pulcher* (Willd.)  
*rus* Ching. Holttum.

*Christella* Lev. *C. hispidula*  
(Decne.) Holttum.  
*C. dentata*  
(Forssk.)  
Brownsey & Jermy.  
*C. gueinziana*  
(Mett.) Holttum.  
*C.*  
*chaseana* (Schelpe)  
Holttum,

*Stegnogramma* *S. pozoi* (Lagasca)  
Blume. K. Iwatsuki.

*Thelypteris* Sch *T. confluens*  
midel. (Thunb.) Morton.

*Cyclosorus* *C. interruptus*  
link. (Willd.) H. Ito.

*Pneumatopteris* *P. unita* (Kunze)  
s Nakai. Holttum.

18.

Aspleniaceae  
(36 species)

*Asplenium* L. *A. dalhousiae*  
Hook.  
*A. phillipsianum*  
(Kummerle) Bir,  
Fraser-Jenk &  
Lavis.  
*A. sandersonii*

Hook.

*A. monanthes* L.

*A. eliottii* C. H.

Wright.

*A. adamsii* Alston.

*A. erythraeum* Pic.

Serm.

*A. friesiorum*. C.

Chr.

A.

*warnecke* Hieron.

*A. unilaterale* Lam.

*A. formosum* Willd.

*A. erectum* Bory ex

Willd.

*A. trichomanes* L.

subsp.

*quadrivalens* D.E.M

ey.

emend. Lovis.

*A. smedsii* Pic.

Serm.

*A. inaequilaterale*

Bory ex Willd.

*A. mannii* Hook.

*A. ceii* Pic. Serm.

*A. protensum*

Schrad.

*A. dregeanum*

Kunze.

*A. bugoiense*

Hieron.

*A. hypomelas*

Kuhn.

*A. linckii* Kuhn.

*A. uhligii* Hieron.

*A. demerkense*

Hieron.

*A. balense* Chaerle

& Viane.

*A. stuhlmannii*

Hieron.

*A. buettneri* Hieron.

ex Brause.

*A. aethiopicum*

(Burm.f.) Bech.

*A. lividum* Mett. ex

Kuhn.

*A. theciferum*

(HBK) Mett.

*A. adiantum-*

*nigrum* L.

*A. abyssinicum*

Fee.

*A. pumilum* Sw.

*A.*

*stipicellatum* Pic. Se

rm.

*A. cordatum*

(Thunb.) Sw.

*A. ceterach* L.

19. Hypodematiaceae *Hypodematium* *H. crenatum*  
e Kunze. (Forssk.) Kuhn.  
(1 species)
20. Cystopteridaceae *Cystopteris* Bernh. *C. fragilis* (L.)  
(1 species) nh. Bernh.
21. Athyriaceae *Deparia* Hook. *D.*  
(3 species) & Grev. *boryanum* (Willd.)  
H. Ohba.  
*Athyrium* Roth. *A. scandicinum*  
(Willd.) C. Presl.  
*A. schimperi* Moug.  
ex Fee.
22. Dryopteridaceae *Cyrtomium* C. *C. micropterum*  
(22 species) Presl. (Kunze) Ching.  
*Didymochlaena* *D. truncatula* (Sw.)  
Desv. J.Sm.  
*Dryopteris* *D. athamantica*  
Adans. (Kunze) Kuntze.  
*D. fadenii* Pic.  
Serm.  
*D. kilemensis*  
(Kuhn) Kuntze.  
*D. pentheri*

(Krasser) C.Chr.

*D. rodolfii*

J.P.Roux.

*D. schimperiana*

(Hochst. Ex A.Br.)

C.Chr.

*D. tricellularis* J.P.

Roux

*D.*

*lewalleana* Pic.Ser

m.

*D. aquamiseta*

(Hook) Ching.

*Polystichum*

*P.*

Roth.

*magnificum* F.Ballar

d.

*P. transvaalense*

N. C.Anthony.

*P. wilsonii* H.Christ.

*Ctenitis*

*C. cirrhosa*

(C.Chr.) C.Chr.

(Schumach.)

Ching.

*Megalastrum* H

*M. lanuginosum*

olttum.

(Willd. ex Kaulf)

Holttum.

*Bolbitis* Schott.

*B. heudelotii* (Bory

ex Fee) Alston.

		<i>Elaphoglossum</i>	<i>E. acrostichoides</i>
		SchottexJ.Sm.	(Hook. & Grev.)
			Schelpe.
			<i>E. aubertii</i> (Desv.)
			T. Moore.
			<i>E. deckenii</i> (Kuhn)
			C.Chr.
			<i>E. hybridum</i> (Bary)
			Brack.
			<i>E. lastii</i> (Baker)
			C.Chr.
23.	Tectariaceae	<i>Tectaria</i> Cav.	<i>T. gemmifera</i> (Fee)
	3 species)		Alston.
		<i>Arthropteris</i> J.S	<i>A. monocarpa</i>
		m ex Hook.f.	(Cordem.) C.Chr.
			<i>A. orientallis</i> (J.F.
			Gmel) Posth.
24.	Nephrolepidaceae	<i>Nephrolepis</i>	<i>N. biserrata</i> (Sw.)
	e	Schott.	Schott.
	(2 species)		<i>N. undulata</i> (Afzel.
			ex SW.) J.Sm.
25.	Oleandraceae	<i>Oleandra</i> Cav.	<i>O. distenta</i> Kunze.
	(1 species)		
26.	Davalliaceae	<i>Davallia</i> Sm.	<i>D. denticulata</i>
	(1 species)		(Burn.f.) Mett. ex

Kuhn.

27.	Blechnaceae (2 species)	<i>Blechnum</i> L.	<i>B. attenuatum</i> (Sw.) Mett.  <i>B. tabulare</i> (Thumb.) Kuhn.
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#### 4. CONCLUSION

This study has revised the classification of pteridophytes of Ethiopia and Eritrea to conform to the PPG I [6] classification approach. This resulted in 27 families, 76 genera and 192 species, with changes recorded at all levels of classification except the number of species. This outcome is therefore suggested to be applied in the herbaria and adopted by researchers of pteridophytes in Ethiopia and Eritrea, for ease of communication internationally.

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