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***Lygodium* (Schizaeaceae) in southern high latitudes during the Cenozoic – a new species  
and new insights into character evolution in the genus**

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**Abstract**

Utilising both macrofossil and spore evidence the fern, *Lygodium* Swartz, is shown to be common in the Cenozoic of eastern Australia. A new species, *Lygodium goonyellum* sp. nov. that has laminate fertile pinnules with crenulate margins and reticulate spore morphology (*Crassiretitriletes vanraadshoovenii* Germeraad, Hopping et Muller), is described from Suttor Formation or its equivalents, near Moranbah, Queensland. Palynological data and isotopic dates supports an Oligocene-early Miocene age for this unit. The laminate fertile pinnules and spores in *L. goonyellum* are morphologically similar to those of extant *Lygodium microphyllum* (A.J.Cavanilles) R.Brown and *L. reticulatum* Schkuhr. It differs from the Australian Paleogene species *L. dinmorphyllum* Churchill in both laminate fertile pinnules and reticulate spores. Additional distributional data on *L. dinmorphyllum* is provided,

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