Pteridophytes

- We ‘Pteridophytes’ came from the Greek word Pteron meaning “feather” and Python meaning “plants.”
- We are called vascular cryptogams.
- Our main plant body is differentiated into true roots, stems, and leaves.
  We are classified into four classes.

Psilopsida (Psilotum)

- Our plant body does not have roots. The rhizome is subterranean and it has an aerial shoot.
- Our stem has dichotomous branches.
- The leaves are arranged on either side as scale like in a spiral as in Psilotum and leaf-like appendages as in Tmesipteris.
- There is no secondary growth in our stem.

Lycopsida (Lycopodium)

- Our plant body is differentiated into well-defined roots, stems, and leaves
- Our leaves are small and are microphyllous.
- Branching is dichotomous.

Sphenopsida (Equisetum)

- We have only one living genus called Equisetum.
- Stem have distinct nodes and internodes.
- Branches are arranged in whorls.
- Very small leaves are arranged in whorls at the nodes of the stem and branches.

Pteropsida (Dryopteris)

- Our plant body is differentiated into well-defined roots, stems, and leaves. The leaves are arranged spirally.

- Leaves are large (Megaphylls). They are pinnately compound and are called fronds.
- Rhizome is thick and short.