

Arachniodes aristata

SYNONYMS

Polystichopsis aristata (G.Forst.) Holttum; Polystichum aristatum (G.Forst.) C.Presl; Rumohra aristata (G.Forst.) Ching; Lastrea aristata (G.Forst.) T.Moore; Nephrodium aristatum (G.Forst.) C.Presl; Polypodium aristatum G.Forst.; Aspidium aristatum (G.Forst.) Sw.; Byrsopteris aristata (G.Forst.) C.V.Morton; Dryopteris aristata (G.Forst.) Kuntze

FAMILY

Dryopteridaceae

AUTHORITY

Arachniodes aristata (G.Forst.) Tindale

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Ferns

NVS CODE

ARAARI

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 164

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL, SO

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL, SO

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: SO, OL

2004 | Range Restricted

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. In New Zealand known only from Raoul Island. Also recorded from Asia, Australia and the Pacific Islands

HABITAT

Common on Raoul Island within dry, usually shaded lowland forest, where it grows amongst sparsely vegetated leaf litter.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Stout terrestrial fern of the forest floor. **Rhizomes** long-creeping, scaly. **Stipes** 0.2–0.86 m long, stiff and wiry, scaly, particularly near the base. **Fronde lamina** broadly ovate, deltoid to 5-angled, 3-pinnate, 0.3–0.8 × 0.2–0.5 m, dark glossy green above, paler beneath, harshly textured, midribs scaly. **Primary pinnae** long-stalked, narrowly ovate above, ovate below, the longest at base. Basal basiscopic secondary pinna on each basal primary pinna greatly enlarged. **Ultimate segments** acutely toothed.

LIFE CYCLE

Minute spores are wind dispersed (Thorsen et al., 2009).



In cultivation. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



September. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh spores and rooted pieces. Cold sensitive but does well in a free draining soil in a shaded warm site or in a pot. Once established very drought tolerant. Not commonly cultivated in New Zealand but it has proved hardy in Aucklands climate.

THREATS

Not threatened. Listed only because it is known in the New Zealand Botanical Region from the one location, Raoul Island.

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange for NZPCN (1 June 2013)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Thorsen MJ, Dickinson KJM, Seddon PJ. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285–309. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ppees.2009.06.001>.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/arachniodes-aristata/>