

# Cranfillia deltoides

## COMMON NAME

korokio, mountain hard fern

## SYNONYMS

*Lomaria vulcanica* Blume; *Spicanta vulcanica* (Blume) Kuntze; *Lomaria deflexa* Colenso; *Lomaria deltoides* Colenso; *Lomaria paucijuga* Colenso; *Blechnum vulcanicum* (Blume) Kuhn; *Cranfillia vulcanica* (Blume) Gasper et V.A.O.Dittrich; *Blechnum deltoides* (Colenso) T.C.Chambers

## FAMILY

Blechnaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Cranfillia deltoides* (Colenso) de Lange et Parris

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

No

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Ferns

## NVS CODE

BLEVUL

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n=68

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. New Zealand: North Island (uncommon north of Auckland), South Island, Stewart Island/Rakiura, Chatham Islands. Also South-eastern Australia.

## HABITAT

Coastal to montane. Usually in forested areas on cliff faces, rock outcrops, banks (especially roadside banks) and, less commonly on boulders and rocks along stream beds and in open forest.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

**Rhizome** creeping to erect, sometimes forming a small trunk. **Fronde**s dimorphic, 0.01–0.68 m long, 30–100 mm wide. **Stipe** 90–360 mm long, stramineous to brown; scales linear to narrowly triangular, acuminate, entire, dark red-brown, with straight white hairs at least at base of stipe. **Lamina** narrowly triangular, pinnatisect or pinnate, with 6–30 or more pairs of pinnae; rachis and costae stramineous to brown, ± glabrous; sterile pinnae oblong to narrowly triangular, weakly falcate, acuminate, 32–80 × 8–10 mm, often pilosa, adnate; margins crenate; basal pinnae broader, falcate, deflexed, not adnate basiscopically; fertile pinnae 30.0–45.0 × 2.0–3.5 mm.



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



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## SIMILAR TAXA

None. Easily recognised by the creeping growth habit, rather narrow, deltoid, harsh textured (often crinkly) sterile fronds, and by the distinctive deflexed basal pinnae.

## FLOWERING

N.A.

## FLOWER COLOURS

No flowers

## FRUITING

N.A.

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Often fickle. Does better in cooler climates, preferring a shaded site panted in damp, rich, free draining soil. Dislikes competition.

## ETYMOLOGY

**deltoides:** From the Greek 'delta' the third letter of the alphabet and referring to three-sided shapes such as triangular or delta-shaped

## TAXONOMIC INFORMATION

Perrie et al. (2014) advocated for a broadened circumscription of Blechnaceae whereby a number of genera traditionally recognised as distinct from *Blechnum* were merged within it. However, this view has not met with universal acceptance (see Gasper et al. 2016) and does not seem to be followed worldwide (PPG 2016). From a New Zealand perspective, the decision to merge *Doodia* in *Blechnum*, and rejection of *Diploblechnum* has not been universally accepted either (e.g., Wilcox & Warden (2017)), and as such it is considered appropriate to follow world opinion and accept the taxonomy of Gasper et al. (2016) and recommendations of the PPG (2016).

Chambers & Wilson (2019) revised the *Blechnum vulcanicum* complex, electing to use *Blechnum* in preference to *Cranfillia* because this was 'favoured by the senior author'. In their revision they treated the widespread New Zealand and South-eastern Australian plants previously referred to as *Blechnum vulcanicum* or *Cranfillia vulcanica* as *Blechnum deltoides* (based on *Lomaria deltoides* Colenso). To accommodate this species in *Cranfillia* de Lange & Parris (2019) made the necessary combination for it, as *Cranfillia deltoides*.

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (19 September 2012). Description adapted from Chambers & Farrant (1998).

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

- Chambers TC, Farrant PA. 1998. Blechnaceae. Flora of Australia 48, Ferns Gymnosperms and allied groups: 359–384. ABRIS/CSIRO Victoria, Australia.
- Chambers TC, Wilson PG. 2019. A revision of *Blechnum vulcanicum* (Blume) Kuhn and related taxa (Blechnaceae) in Malesia and Oceania. *Telopea* 22: 41–59.
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## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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#### MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/cranfillia-deltoides/>