# Anogramma leptophylla

## COMMON NAMES
Jersey fern, annual fern

## BIOSTATUS
Native

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS
2023 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: Sp, DPR, DPT, SO
Jump to previous conservation statuses

## CATEGORY
Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS
Ferns

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION
Dimunitive, tufted, winter dormant, early spring to mid summer-green fern, which dries off by mid to late summer, appearing dead. **Rhizomes** small, hairy. **Stipes** red-brown, glabrous. **Fronds** 10–60 mm long, ovate or narrowly ovate, 2–3-pinnate, 8–50 x 7–30 mm, pale green or yellow-green, somewhat membraneous and delicate, glabrous. **Sterile** fronds smaller than fertile, appearing first. **Ultimate frond divisions** fan-shaped and deeply notched. **Sori** near tips of pinnae, one per segment.

Port Hills, Christchurch. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken: 28/12/2022, Licence: CC BY-NC.

Sori on frond underside, Mt Wellington Auckland. Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 11/10/2021, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## SIMILAR TAXA
None

## DISTRIBUTION
Indigenous. New Zealand: North Island, South Island—easterly in its distribution. Also Australia, South America, Africa, India and Europe.

## HABITAT
Clay banks, alluvial banks, rock faces and overhangs. Often associated with liverworts.

## THREATS
This species is mainly threatened through habitat loss by competition with weeds, and by the removal of surrounding vegetation.

## GENUS
Anogramma

## FAMILY
Pteridaceae

## AUTHORITY
Anogramma leptophylla (L.) Link

## SYNONYMS
Polypodium leptophyllum L., Grammitis leptophylla Swartz, Gymnogramme leptophylla Desv., Gymnogramme novae-zelandiae Colenso; Osmunda leptophylla (L.) Savigny in Lam.; Hemionitis leptophylla (L.) Lag.; Acrostichum leptophyllum (L.) Lam. et DC.; Asplenium leptophyllum (L.) Sw.; Grammitis leptophylla (L.) Sw.

## ENDEMIC TAXON
No

## ENDEMIC GENUS
No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE
Difficult and should not be removed from the wild.

## PLANT OF THE MONTH
This plant has been featured as a Plant of the Month – see Trilepidea: NZPCN newsletter for July 2017 for the full story.

## ETYMOLOGY
**anogramma**: From the Greek ano 'upward' or 'above' and gramma 'lined' or 'written', referring to the sori maturing first near the tips
**leptophylla**: Slender leaf

## NVS CODE
ANOLEP

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER
2n = 52, 58

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES
2017 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: DP, RR, SO, Sp
2012 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: EF, RR, SO, Sp
2009 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: SO, EF, RR, Sp
2004 | Gradual Decline
Jump to current conservation status

## REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES
Auckland: 2025 | Regionally Threatened – Regionally Critical | Qualifiers: CD, DPS, DPT, OL, SO, Sp Help
The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Auckland conservation status information is sourced from the "Conservation status of vascular plant species in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland" Simpkins E et al. (2025) report.
Otago: 2025 | Regionally Threatened – Regionally Critical | Qualifiers: DPR, DPS, DPT, NR, PF, Sp Help
The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Otago conservation status information is sourced from the "Conservation Status of Indigenous Vascular Plants in Otago, 2025" Jarvie S et al. (2025) report.

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING
Moss T. 1988. The *Anogramma-Targionia* association. *Wellington Botanical Society Bulletin 44*: 16–18.
Brownsey PJ, Smith-Dodsworth JC. 2000. New Zealand Ferns and Allied Plants. David Bateman, Auckland, NZ. 168 p.

## ATTRIBUTION
Fact Sheet Prepared for NZPCN by: P.J. de Lange (17 April 2011). Description adapted from Brownsey & Smith-Dodsworth.

## MORE INFORMATION
https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/anogramma-leptophylla/

## PDF DATE
08 June 2026