

Arachniodes aristata

BIOSTATUS

Native

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL, SO

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Ferns

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. **Fron**d 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 basisopic secondary pinna on each basal primary pinna greatly enlarged. **Ultimate segments** acutely toothed.

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.

THREATS

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

GENUS

Arachniodes

FAMILY

Dryopteridaceae

AUTHORITY

Arachniodes aristata (G.Forst.) Tindale

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

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

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



A fungus, *Taphrina cornu-cervi* on *Arachniodes aristata* (bottom right). Raoul Island.

Photographer: Sue Lake, Licence: CC BY-NC.



A fungus, *Taphrina cornu-cervi* on *Arachniodes aristata*. Raoul Island. Photographer: Sue Lake, 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.

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

NVS CODE

ARAARI

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 164

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

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

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

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

2004 | Range Restricted

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

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>.

ATTRIBUTION

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

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

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

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