

# Asplenium aethiopicum

## BIOSTATUS

Exotic

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Ferns

## DISTRIBUTION

Naturalised in New Zealand. Reported from Bay of Islands, Auckland and Christchurch. Uncommon but appears to be increasing around Auckland.

## GENUS

Asplenium

## FAMILY

Aspleniaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Asplenium aethiopicum* (N.L.Burm.) Becherer

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## YEAR NATURALISED

2003

## REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Horticultural

## TOLERANCES

Dislikes damp or wet places. Prefers dry, hot, sunny sites.

## LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Reproduces by spores, dispersed by wind.

## ETYMOLOGY

**asplenium:** From the Greek a- 'without' and splene 'spleen', a northern hemisphere species, the black spleenwort (*Asplenium adiantum-nigrum*), was once believed to be a cure for diseases of the spleen.

**aethiopicum:** Africa (especially South Africa); name derived from Aethiops, an African and son of Vulcan, the Greek God of metalworking and fire

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (7 March 2005).

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/asplenium-aethiopicum/>

## PDF DATE

25 May 2026



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