

Asplenium appendiculatum subsp. maritimum

COMMON NAME

coastal spleenwort

SYNONYMS

Asplenium terrestre subsp. *maritimum* Brownsey; *Asplenium flaccidum* var. *littoralis* Dobbie

FAMILY

Aspleniaceae

AUTHORITY

Asplenium appendiculatum subsp. *maritimum* (Brownsey) Brownsey

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Ferns

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 288

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island (mainly around Cook Strait but known as far north as the Waitakere coastline, west of Auckland), South Island (as far south as Banks Peninsula and Kahurangi Point).

HABITAT

Coastal. Usually on exposed cliffs and rocks subject to salt spray, or amongst coastal scrub.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Rhizome short, erect, bearing dark brown subulate scales up to 15 × 2 mm. **Stipes** 50–150 mm long, brown below, green above, covered in subulate to narrowly triangular scales with long filiform apices. **Laminae** relatively short and broad, elliptic, 100–250 × 70–200 mm, dark green, leathery or very thick and fleshy, slightly stiff and upright, bi- to tripinnate. **Raches** green, scaly, prominently ridged. **Pinnae** 7–15 pairs, those at the base ovate, those above very narrowly ovate, acute, stalked, 30–100 × 5–30 mm, covered on underside in tiny scales. **Pinnules**: upper pinnules linear, acute, entire and sessile; lower pinnules ovate to elliptic and pinnatifid, up to 20 × 10 mm. **Sori** submarginal, 2–7 mm long.



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SIMILAR TAXA

Differs from *Asplenium flaccidum* G.Forst. by its strict terrestrial growth habit, being octoploid ($2n = 288$) rather than tetraploid ($2n = 144$) and by having a more or less erect frond and a larger spore size. It can be distinguished from *A. haurakiense* (Brownsey) Ogle by its allopatric distribution, and by the lack of a greatly elongated basal acroscopic pinnule on each pinna. *Asplenium appendiculatum* (Labill.) C.Presl subsp. *appendiculatum* differs from subsp. *maritimum* by its preference for inland habitats, somewhat larger, lanceolate to elliptic fronds which tend to droop, more pinnae pairs, with those at the base ovate, and those above very narrowly ovate or elliptic, often with long relatively undivided acuminate tips; and by the lower pinnules being larger, and narrowly elliptic and pinnatifid to pinnate.

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown. A very attractive fern which can be rather slow growing. Best in a large pot or planted in a deep, rich, moist soil in semi-shade. Prone to scale and mealy bug infections.

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.

appendiculatum: Appendiculate, with small appendages or projections, hanging in small fragments

maritimum: From the Latin mare 'sea', meaning growing on the sea shore

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (3 February 2005): Description from: Brownsey (1977)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Brownsey P.J. 1977. A taxonomic revision of the New Zealand species of *Asplenium*. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 15(1): 39–86. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0028825X.1977.10429618>.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/asplenium-appendiculatum-subsp-maritimum/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/asplenium-appendiculatum-subsp-maritimum/>