# Asplenium hookerianum var. colensoi

## COMMON NAMES
Colenso's spleenwort

## BIOSTATUS
Native – Endemic taxon

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS
2023 | Not Assessed
Jump to previous conservation statuses

## CATEGORY
Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS
Ferns

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION
**Rhizome** short, erect, bearing numerous brown, ovate, acuminate scales up to 10 × 2 mm. **Stipes** 20–100 mm long, pale brown below, green above, densely covered in small, subulate to narrowly ovate scales with filiform apices. **Laminae** lanceolate to rhombic, 40–250 × 10–150 mm, dark green, thin, bipinnate to tripinnate in well-grown specimens. **Raches** green, slender, and very scaly. **Pinnae** 5–15 pairs, very narrowly ovate, acuminate, long-stalked, 10–80 × 5–20 mm, basal pair pointing upwards when fresh. **Pinnules** stalked, 3–10 pairs, linear, crenate to deeply incised (or almost pinnate), 3–12 × 3–10 mm, tending to lie at 90° to plane of frond in well-grown specimens. **Sori** sub-marginal on narrow pinnules, remote from margins on broad segments, 1–3 mm long.

## SIMILAR TAXA
Closely allied to *A. hookerianum* Colenso var. *hookerianum* from which it differs only by its much narrower, linear pinnules. This variety is always found in association with *A. hookerianum* var. *hookerianum*.

## DISTRIBUTION
Endemic. New Zealand: North Island, South Island, Stewart Island/Rakiura, Chatham Islands.

## HABITAT
Coastal to alpine. Usually on shaded clay banks or rocky outcrops in scrub and open forest, or on the ground in disturbed forest remnants.

## GENUS
Asplenium

## FAMILY
Aspleniaceae

## AUTHORITY
Asplenium hookerianum var. colensoi (Hook.f.) Moore

## SYNONYMS
Asplenium colensoi Hook.f.; Asplenium adiantoides var. colensoi Hook. f.; Asplenium richardii var. colensoi Hook.



Stronvar, eastern Wairarapa. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 10/10/2010, Licence: CC BY.




Sori. Eastern Hutt hills. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 12/05/2013, Licence: CC BY.

## TAXONOMIC NOTES
*Asplenium hookerianum* var. *colensoi* is not upheld by Brownsey (1977) who argues that it is merely a state of *A. hookerianum* var. *hookerianum*. For the time being the variety is maintained because despite that view many people regard it as distinct. *Asplenium hookerianum* var. *colensoi* may perhaps be better treated at the rank of forma.

## ENDEMIC TAXON
Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS
No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

## LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL
Minute spores are wind dispersed (Thorsen et al., 2009).

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE
Easily grown, and an excellent pot plant. However, rather slow growing, and as with all asplenia prone to infestations of scale and mealy bugs.

## 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.
**hookerianum**: Named after Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker (born 1817) - a world famous botanist who travelled on the Antarctic expedition of 1839 under the command of Sir James Ross and wrote "Handbook of New Zealand Flora" published in 1864-67 describing many specimens sent to Kew by collectors. He died in 1911 and has a memorial stone at Westminster Abbey London.
**colensoi**: Named after William Colenso (7 November 1811 - 10 February 1899) who was a Cornish Christian missionary to New Zealand, and also a printer, botanist, explorer and politician.

## NVS CODE
ASPHVC

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER
2n = 144

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES
2017 | Not Threatened
2012 | Not Threatened
2009 | Not Threatened
2004 | Not Threatened
Jump to current conservation status

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING
Brownsey PJ. 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.

## ATTRIBUTION
Fact Sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange (6 June 2007). Description based on Brownsey (1977) supplemented with observations of fresh specimens and herbarium material.

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION
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## MORE INFORMATION
https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/asplenium-hookerianum-var-colensoi/

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