

# Asplenium subglandulosum

## COMMON NAME

blanket fern

## SYNONYMS

*Gymnogramma alpina* Potts; *Gymnogramma rutaefolia* (R.Br.) Desv.; *Gymnogramma pozoi* var. *rutaefolia* (R.Br.) Hook. et Baker; *Ceterach rutaefolium* (R.Br.) Mett.; *Grammitis rutaefolia* R.Br., *Asplenium subglandulosum* (Hook. et Grev.) Salvo, Prada et Diaz subsp. *subglandulosum*; *Pleurosorus rutifolius* (R.Br.) Fée

## FAMILY

Aspleniaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Asplenium subglandulosum* (Hook. et Grev.) Salvo, Prada

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

No

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Ferns

## NVS CODE

PLERUT

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 144

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

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

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: SO

2004 | Sparse

## DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. North and South Islands. In the North known from inland Hawkes Bay (an old record), the north-west Ruahine Ranges, near Cape Palliser, and possibly also Cape Te Rawhiti. In the South Island more widespread in the east from Marlborough south to Otago. Present in Australia.

## HABITAT

Coastal to subalpine (1 - 1400 m.a.s.l.), saxicolous, usually on dry, exposed and sunny rock faces or crevices and joints with little (if any) associated vascular plant cover.



Near Lowburn, Otago. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Bendigo, Otago. Sep 2006. Photographer: Leon Perrie

## FEATURES

Reddish-green to red-brown hairy fern of dry or exposed rock crevices. Rhizomes short, erect, ascending, covered in scales. Stipes and rachises pale chestnut-brown to dark red-brown at base, green above, copiously invested in pale brown to red-brown 0.1-2 mm long, non-glandular hairs. Stipe 5-70 x 0.5 mm diameter. Frond lamina 1-2-pinnate, narrowly elliptic, 15-150 x 6-45 mm, dark brownish-green to brown-green, densely covered in pale brown non-glandular hairs. Primary pinnae in 3-11 pairs, flabellate, ovate or bluntly and broadly ovate; bases oblique to unequally cuneate, shortly stalked; margins dentate or more or less entire; apices obtuse or more or less rounded; longest pinnae near middle of frond, these 3-23 x 3-22 mm, divided into secondary pinnae; these up to 10 x 9 mm. Sori 5 mm or less long.

## SIMILAR TAXA

This species could not be confused with any other New Zealand fern. Its preference for exposed, dry rock faces and crevices, usually devoid of other vascular plants, the small tufted habit, and the almost velvety textured, brownish-green, 1-2-pinnate fronds copiously covered in reddish to red-brown non-glandular hairs are key characters enabling its immediate recognition in the field and herbarium.

## FLOWERING

Not applicable - spore producing

## FLOWER COLOURS

No flowers

## FRUITING

Not applicable - spore producing

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult - should not be removed from the wild

## THREATS

A genuinely uncommon, naturally sparse fern. Although widespread it is easily overlooked and it is possible that some populations have been eliminated by quarrying. Because it is unusual it is rather vulnerable to overcollection by botanists, a factor which has threatened some populations in the recent past. It is quite likely that some populations are threatened by the spread of introduced weeds into its preferred cliff habitats. Nevertheless it would seem that these threats have had little impact on the species' overall distribution. Populations of this species should be carefully monitored to determine their long-term stability.

## 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.

## WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

## ATTRIBUTION

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

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Brownsey, P.J.; Smith-Dodsworth, J.C. 2000: *New Zealand Ferns and Allied Plants*. Auckland, David Bateman

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Asplenium subglandulosum* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.

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

## MORE INFORMATION

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