

Astelia nervosa

COMMON NAME

mountain astelia

SYNONYMS

Astelia nervosa var. *montana* Kirk ex Cheeseman; *Astelia montana* (Kirk) Ckn.; *Astelia cockaynei* Cheeseman

FAMILY

Asteliaceae

AUTHORITY

Astelia nervosa Hook.f.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Monocots

NVS CODE

ASTNER

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 210

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

A. nervosa may be confined to the South and Stewart Islands; North Island plants have greener leaves with a brownish/bronze indumentum on the abaxial (lower) surfaces and these may constitute an unnamed taxon.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACU: Facultative Upland

Occasionally is a hydrophyte but usually occurs in uplands (non-wetlands).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Undersides of leaves often showing zigzag 'tracks' caused by feeding of the larvae of the 'astelia zigzag moth' (http://www.monarch.org.nz/monarch/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Autumn13_03.pdf)

FLOWER COLOURS

Brown, Red/Pink

LIFE CYCLE

Fleshy berries are dispersed by frugivory (Thorsen et al., 2009).



Mt Peel, Cobb, December. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Leith Saddle, Dunedin. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

ETYMOLOGY

astelia: Stemless

nervosa: With conspicuous veins

ATTRIBUTION

http://www.monarch.org.nz/monarch/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Autumn13_03.pdf

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora.

Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics 2009 Vol. 11 No. 4 pp. 285-309

http://www.monarch.org.nz/monarch/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Autumn13_03.pdf (for life history of astelia zigzag moth)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/astelia-nervosa/>