Cranfillia deltoides

COMMON NAMES
korokio, mountain hard fern

BIOSTATUS
Native

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS
2023 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO
Jump to previous conservation statuses

CATEGORY
Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Ferns

FLOWER COLOURS
No flowers

DETAILED DESCRIPTION
Rhizome creeping to erect, sometimes forming a small trunk. **Fronds** dimorphic, 0.01–0.68 m long, 30–100 mm wide. **Stipe** 90–360 mm long, stramineous to brown; scales linear to narrowly triangular, acuminate, entire, dark red-brown, with straight white hairs at least at base of stipe. **Lamina** narrowly triangular, pinnatisect or pinnate, with 6–30 or more pairs of pinnae; rachis and costae stramineous to brown, ± glabrous; sterile pinnae oblong to narrowly triangular, weakly falcate, acuminate, 32–80 × 8–10 mm, often pilosa, adnate; margins crenate; basal pinnae broader, falcate, deflexed, not adnate basiscopically; fertile pinnae 30.0–45.0 × 2.0–3.5 mm.

Dart Valley, Otago. Photographer: Jesse Bythell, Date taken: 23/03/2012, Licence: CC BY-NC.

SIMILAR TAXA
None. Easily recognised by the creeping growth habit, rather narrow, deltoid, harsh textured (often crinkly) sterile fronds, and by the distinctive deflexed basal pinnae.

Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken: 11/11/2019, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DISTRIBUTION
Indigenous. New Zealand: North Island (uncommon north of Auckland), South Island, Stewart Island/Rakiura, Chatham Islands. Also South-eastern Australia.

HABITAT
Coastal to montane. Usually in forested areas on cliff faces, rock outcrops, banks (especially roadside banks) and, less commonly on boulders and rocks along stream beds and in open forest.

GENUS
Cranfillia

FAMILY
Blechnaceae

AUTHORITY
Cranfillia deltoides (Colenso) de Lange et Parris

SYNONYMS
Lomaria vulcanica Blume; Spicanta vulcanica (Blume) Kuntze; Lomaria deflexa Colenso; Lomaria deltoides Colenso; Lomaria paucijuga Colenso; Blechnum vulcanicum (Blume) Kuhn; Cranfillia vulcanica (Blume) Gasper et V.A.O.Dittrich; Blechnum deltoides (Colenso) T.C.Chambers

TAXONOMIC NOTES

Perrie et al. (2014) advocated for a broadened circumscription of Blechnaceae whereby a number of genera traditionally recognised as distinct from *Blechnum* were merged within it. However, this view has not met with universal acceptance (see Gasper et al. 2016) and does not seem to be followed worldwide (PPG 2016). From a New Zealand perspective, the decision to merge *Doodia* in *Blechnum*, and rejection of *Diploblechnum* has not been universally accepted either (e.g., Wilcox & Warden (2017)), and as such it is considered appropriate to follow world opinion and accept the taxonomy of Gasper et al. (2016) and recommendations of the PPG (2016).
Chambers & Wilson (2019) revised the *Blechnum vulcanicum* complex, electing to use *Blechnum* in preference to *Cranfillia* because this was 'favoured by the senior author'. In their revision they treated the widespread New Zealand and South-eastern Australian plants previously referred to as *Blechnum vulcanicum* or *Cranfillia vulcanica* as *Blechnum deltoides* (based on *Lomaria deltoides* Colenso). To accommodate this species in *Cranfillia* de Lange & Parris (2019) made the necessary combination for it, as *Cranfillia deltoides*.

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

N.A.

FRUITING

N.A.

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Often fickle. Does better in cooler climates, preferring a shaded site panted in damp, rich, free draining soil. Dislikes competition.

ETYMOLOGY

deltoides: From the Greek 'delta' the third letter of the alphabet and referring to three-sided shapes such as triangular or delta-shaped

NVS CODE

BLEVUL

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n=68

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO
2012 | Not Threatened
2009 | Not Threatened
2004 | Not Threatened
Jump to current conservation status

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Auckland: 2025 | Regionally Threatened – Regionally Critical | Qualifiers: DPS, DPT, RR Help
Current regional threat status assessments prepared according to Crisp et al. (2025) are displayed when available. The Auckland conservation status information is sourced from the "Conservation status of vascular plant species in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland" Simpkins E et al. (2025) report.
Otago: 2025 | Regionally Not Threatened Help
Current regional threat status assessments prepared according to Crisp et al. (2025) are displayed when available. The Otago conservation status information is sourced from the "Conservation Status of Indigenous Vascular Plants in Otago, 2025" Jarvie S et al. (2025) report.
Northland: 2026 | Regionally Data Deficient Help
Current regional threat status assessments prepared according to Crisp et al. (2025) are displayed when available. The Northland conservation status information is sourced from the "Conservation status of indigenous vascular plants in Northland | Taitokerau" Ford et al. 2026 report.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Chambers TC, Farrant PA. 1998. Blechnaceae. Flora of Australia 48, Ferns Gymnosperms and allied groups: 359–384. ABRS/CSIRO Victoria, Australia.
Chambers TC, Wilson PG. 2019. A revision of *Blechnum vulcanicum* (Blume) Kuhn and related taxa (Blechnaceae) in Malesia and Oceania. *Telopea 22*: 41–59.
de Lange PJ, Parris B. 2019. New combinations in *Cranfillia* (Blechnaceae: Polypodiopsida) for recent segregates of the *Blechnum vulcanicum* complex. *Telopea 22*: 153–156.
Gasper AL, de Oliveira Dittrich VA, Smith AR, Salino A. 2016. A classification for Blechnaceae (Polypodiales: Polypodiopsida): New genera, resurrected names, and combinations. *Phytotaxa 275*: 191–227. https://doi.org/10.11646/phytotaxa.275.3.1.
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ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (19 September 2012). Description adapted from Chambers & Farrant (1998).

MORE INFORMATION

https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/cranfillia-deltoides/

PDF DATE

14 August 2026