

# Doodia milnei

## BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: IE, RR

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Ferns

## FLOWER COLOURS

No flowers

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Bright green to green fern. Fertile and sterile fronds similar. **Rhizomes** erect (sometimes forming a small caudex up to 100 mm tall). **Stipes** 150–200 mm long; stipes and rachises bearing sparse brown scales, sparsely hairy, glabrescent to glabrous. **Fron**d laminae elliptic to narrowly elliptic, pinnate, 120–600 × 100–200 mm, slightly coriaceous to firmly fleshy, slightly scaly, emergent fronds green (never pink or pink tinged). **Pinnae** in 20–46 pairs, the lower ones stalked or partially adnate, the middle and upper adnate; terminal pinna 15–60 mm long (somewhat less than  $\frac{1}{8}$  total frond length); longest pinnae 50–180 × 3–18 mm. **Indusia** linear.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Superficially similar to *Doodia australis* with which it is sympatric in the Kermadec Islands. From that species *D. milnei* differs by its uniformly green to bright green, longer and wider fronds. The young expanding fronds are always green, never tinged pink or completely pink as is typical of *D. australis*, the stipes and frond laminae are very sparsely hairy or more usually glabrous, while the pinnae may be up to 180 mm long (100 mm in *D. australis*). *Doodia milnei* is endemic to the Kermadec islands group.

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Kermadec Islands (Raoul and Macauley Island).

## HABITAT

Coastal, usually associated with Kermadec pohutukawa (*Metrosideros kermadecensis*)-dominated forest where it grows amongst rocks, on cliff faces and within leaf litter. It also has been recorded from Macauley Island (southern Kermadec Islands group) where it grows under sparse Kermadec ngaio (*Myoporum rapense* subsp. *kermadecense*).

## THREATS

Not Threatened. On Raoul this is a very common fern of the drier Kermadec pohutukawa-dominated forest. Its exact status on Macauley Island rests on inadequate gatherings made in 1989. Either way it is listed as Naturally Uncommon only because it is a naturally range restricted island endemic.

## GENUS

Doodia

## FAMILY

Blechnaceae



Raoul Island. May 2009. Photographer: Peter J de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Raoul Island. May 2011. Photographer: Peter J de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## AUTHORITY

Doodia milnei Carruth

## SYNONYMS

Doodia milnei var. milnei ((Carruth.) Baker; Doodia connexa sensu Hook.f.; Doodia caudata var. milnei (Carruth.) Domin; Doodia media var. milnei (Carruth.) Baker in Hook. et Baker; Blechnum kermadecense Perrie et Brownsey

## 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).

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## FLOWERING

Not applicable—spore producing

## FRUITING

Not applicable—spore producing

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown in most soils and fresh spores germinate well. However, it is cold intolerant, and prefers a sunny situation in a free draining, dry soil. It does not like excessive moisture. An excellent pot plant.

## ETYMOLOGY

**doodia**: Named for Samuel Doody, 17th century London apothecary and curator

## NVS CODE

DOOMIL

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = c.160

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: IE, RR

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: IE, RR

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL IE

2004 | Range Restricted

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

- Brownsey PJ, Smith-Dodsworth JC. 2000. New Zealand Ferns and Allied Plants. David Bateman, Auckland, NZ. 168 p.
- Gaspar 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>.
- Parris BS. 1972. The genus *Doodia* (Blechnaceae: Filicales) in New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 10: 585–610. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0028825X.1972.10430248>.
- Perrie LR, Wilson RK, Shepherd LD, Ohlsen DJ, Batty EL, Brownsey PJ, Bayly MJ. 2014. Molecular phylogenetics and generic taxonomy of Blechnaceae ferns. *Taxon* 63(4): 745–758. <https://doi.org/10.12705/634.13>.
- PPG 1: The Pteridophyte Phylogeny Group 2016. A community-derived classification for extant lycophytes and ferns. *Journal of Systematics and Evolution* 54: 563–603. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jse.12229>.
- Wilcox M, Warden J. 2017. Botany of Hillsborough coast bush reserves, Manukau Harbour, Auckland. *Auckland Botanical Society Journal* 72: 32–46.

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (2 February 2005). Description adapted from Parris (1973) and Brownsey & Smith-Dodsworth (2000)

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/doodia-milnei/>

## PDF DATE

07 June 2026