**Doodia squarrosa**

**SYNONYMS**
Doodia caudata Baker; Doodia caudata var. squarrosa (Colenso) C.Chr.; Blechnum zeelandicum Christenh.

**FAMILY**
Blechnaceae

**AUTHORITY**
Doodia squarrosa Colenso

**FLORA CATEGORY**
Vascular – Native

**ENDEMIC TAXON**
Yes

**ENDEMIC GENUS**
No

**ENDEMIC FAMILY**
No

**STRUCTURAL CLASS**
Ferns

**NVS CODE**
DOOSQU

**CHROMOSOME NUMBER**
2n = 128

**CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS**
2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp

**PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES**
2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon
2004 | Gradual Decline

**DISTRIBUTION**
Endemic. Kermadec Islands (Macauley Island). New Zealand: North Island from Northland to Wellington.

**HABITAT**
Coastal and lowland alluvial forest, river banks (often in the flood zone), near water falls and in geothermal areas, usually in dappled light or sunny situations. Appears to show a strong preference for base-rich substrates such as basalt, limestone, and the apatite-rich facies of greywacke.

**FEATURES**
Tufted fern arising from shortly erect rhizomes. Stipes 50-150(-200) mm long, along with rachises clad in sparse, brown, caducous scales otherwise glabrous. Fronds dimorphic, the sterile ones prostrate and smaller than the erect, fertile ones. Fronds 14-450 x 15-80 mm, firmly fleshy, glabrescent, pink when young maturing green to dark green. Pinnae in 15-35 pairs, lower and middle pairs stalked, the others fused (adnate) to stipe. Fertile terminal pinna 15-155 mm (conspicuously longer than all other pinnules, up to 1/8 length of entire frond). Indusia linear.

**SIMILAR TAXA**
Most likely to be confused with Doodia mollis whose fronds are also distinctly dimorphic. However the fronds of this species are distinctly hairy, pinnae are up to 20 pairs, and the terminal pinna is scarcely longer than the rest.
FLOWERING
Not applicable - spore producing

FLOWER COLOURS
No flowers

FRUITING
Not applicable - spore producing

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE
Easy from fresh spores. Very fast growing and an excellent pot plant. Does well in a variety of soils, light levels and moisture regimes but intolerant of weeds.

THREATS
Occupying a range of habitats, several of which are vulnerable to the spread of aggressive weeds. Within Auckland City the species has virtually been eliminated by excessive plant collecting, a factor which also threatens it in the Wellington region. Populations within the geothermal fields of the Bay of Plenty are at serious risk from the spread of taller weed species, especially grasses, such as Indian doab (Cynodon dactylon).

ETYMOLOGY
doodia: Named for Samuel Doody, 17th century London apothecary and curator
squarrosa: Rough, with scale-like projections; from the Latin squarrosus; leaves and leaf stalks

TAXONOMIC NOTES
Perrie et al. (2014) advocated for a broadened circumscription of Blechnaceae whereby a number of genera traditionally recognized 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).

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

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
(Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION