Gleichenia dicarpa

COMMON NAME
Tangle fern, swamp umbrella fern

ETYMOLOGY

gleichenia: After the German naturalist and plant physiologist Wilhelm Friedrich (Baron) von Gleichen (1717-1783)
dicarpa: Two seeded; from the greek di and karpos; paired spore clusters

SYNONYMS
Gleichenia circinnata Sw.; Gleichenia dicarpa var. hecistophylla (A.Cunn.) G.Schneid.; Gleichenia semi-vestita var. hecistophylla (A.Cunn.) Hook.f.; Gleicheniastrom hecistophyllum var. majus (T.Moore) Nakai; Gleichenia circinnata var. hecistophylla (A.Cunn.) Hook.f.; Gleichenia dicarpa var. major T.Moore; Gleicheniastrom hecistophyllum (A.Cunn.) Nakai; Mertensia dicarpa (R.Br.) Poir.; Platyzoma dicarpum (R.Br.) Desv.; Calymella dicarpa (R.Br.) C.Presl; Calymella major Nakai; Gleichenia hecistophylla A.Cunn.

FAMILY
Gleicheniaceae

AUTHORITY
Gleichenia dicarpa R. Br.

FLORA CATEGORY
Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON
Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS
No

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Ferns

NVS CODE HELP
The National Vegetation Survey (NVS) Databank is a physical archive and electronic databank containing records of over 94,000 vegetation survey plots - including data from over 19,000 permanent plots. NVS maintains a standard set of species code abbreviations that correspond to standard scientific plant names from the Ngā Tipu o Aotearoa - New Zealand Plants database. GLEDIC

CHROMOSOME NUMBER
2n = 40

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS HELP

- Conservation status of New Zealand indigenous vascular plants, 2017

The conservation status of all known New Zealand vascular plant taxa at the rank of species and below were reassessed in 2017 using the New Zealand Threat Classification System (NZTCS). This report includes a statistical summary and brief notes on changes since 2012 and replaces all previous NZTCS lists for vascular plants. Authors: By Peter J. de Lange, Jeremy R. Rolfe, John W. Barkla, Shannel P. Courtney, Paul D. Champion, Leon R. Perrie, Sarah M. Beadel, Kerry A. Ford, Ilse Breitwieser, Ines Schönberger, Rowan Hindmarsh-Walls, Peter B. Heenan and Kate Ladley.

2012 | Not Threatened
PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES
2009 | Not Threatened
2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION
Indigenous. New Zealand. North, South, Stewart and Chathams Islands. Also Australia, New Caledonia, Philippines, Borneo and Malaysia

HABITAT
Coastal to subalpine in poorly drainning soils, clay pans and pakihi and peat bogs. In lowland peat bogs often forming dense, almost impenetrable masses hence the common name “tangle fern”.

FEATURES
Rhizome 1.5-3.0 mm diameter, at first bearing brown lanceolate ciliate scales. Fronds of 1-4 tiers of branches, 0.1-2.0 m or more long; lower tiers often branching, usually more than 150 mm wide. Stipes scattered along rhizomes, 0.6-0.95 m long, often bearing brown lanceolate ciliate scales; rachis bearing weak brown to white often matted stellate hairs and ciliate scales. Pinnules glabrous above or with scattered hairs along costa, with sparse or dense whitish to ferruginous scales along costa below; ultimate segments 0.8-1.5 mm long, 0.8-2.0 mm wide, more or less round, obtuse, flat or slightly convex above, pouch below; undersurface white, rarely green. Sori of 2 sporangia only. Description adapted from Chinnock & Bell (1998).

SIMILAR TAXA
Often confused with Gleichenia microphylla which is a taller plant, with ultimate segments flattened, and distinctly triangular, which are abaxially green (never white), and which bear 2-4 sporangia. Gleichenia alpina is very similar to G. dicarpa from which it differs by its consistently smaller fronds (rarely > 60 mm wide, and rounded rather than lanceolate scales. Recently it has been shown that Gleichenia alpina is present in New Zealand, though its exact distribution is still unclear (Perrie et al. 2007; Perrie et al. 2012). Gleichenia inclusisora differs from G. dicarpa (with which it often grows) by the sori which are embedded up to three-quarters of their depth into the undersides of the fronds, and also by the glossy rather than mostly dull upper frond surface.

FLOWERING
N.A.

FLOWER COLOURS
No flowers

FRUITING
N.A.

LIFE CYCLE
Minute spores are wind dispersed (Thorsen et al., 2009).

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE
Fickle. Probably best left alone. Transplants have sometimes been successfully grown in shaded conditions with plants planted in an acid, poorly drained soil. But results vary and plants tend to resent any root disturbance

THREATS
Not Threatened

ATTRIBUTION

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

MORE INFORMATION