Icarus filiformis

COMMON NAMES
thread fern, climbing hard fern

BIOSTATUS
Native – Endemic taxon

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

CATEGORY
Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Ferns

FLOWER COLOURS
No flowers

GENUS
Icarus

FAMILY
Blechnaceae

AUTHORITY
Icarus filiformis (A.Cunn.) Gasper et Salino

SYNONYMS
Struthiopteris filiformis (A.Cunn.) Ching; Spicanta filiformis (A.Cunn.) Kuntze; Stenochlaena heteromorpha J.Sm.; Stenochlaena hügelii (C.Presl) Fée ex Underw.; Lomaria propinqua A.Cunn.; Lomariopsis heteromorpha (J.Sm.) T.Moore; Lomariopsis hügelii C.Presl; Blechnum reptans Luerss.; Lomaria filiformis A.Cunn.; Lomaria pimpinellifolia Hook.f.; Blechnum filiforme (A.Cunn.) Ettingsh.

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
Yes

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No



Wellington. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 28/10/1984, Licence: CC BY.



Juvenile form. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 07/12/1982, Licence: CC BY.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACU: Facultative Upland
Occasionally is a hydrophyte but usually occurs in uplands (non-wetlands).

ETYMOLOGY

filiformis: From the Latin filum ‘thread’ and forma ‘shape’, meaning thread-shaped

NVS CODE

BLEFIL

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 66

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

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

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Auckland: 2025 | Regionally Not Threatened | Qualifiers: DPS, DPT Help
The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Auckland conservation status information is sourced from the “Conservation status of vascular plant species in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland” Simpkins E et al. (2025) report.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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.
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.

MORE INFORMATION

https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/icarus-filiformis/

PDF DATE

27 May 2026