

Lastreopsis hispida

COMMON NAMES

hairy fern

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Ferns

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Rhizome short-creeping, 5–8 mm diameter, densely scaly and hairy; scales 4.0–9.6 × 0.5–1.0 mm, dark red-brown to red-black, bristly, persistent. **Fronds** crowded. **Stipe** 100–480–(500) mm long, densely invested in harsh, bristly, stiff red-brown scales 4.0–9.6 × 0.5–1.0 mm and shorter, glandular hairs. **Lamina** 3–4-pinnate, deltoid, 100–500 × 60–300 mm, dark brownish green, rugose, glabrous except on veins and midribs; these invested in black bristly scales and smaller brown hairs; rachis bearing red-brown bristly scales and hairs; primary and secondary pinnae stalked, finely dissected. **Ultimate segments** narrowly oblong-lanceolate, sharply toothed; margins thickened with deeply cut into narrow curved teeth. **Sori** medial on the veinlets, or at the fork of these; indusium pale brown.

SIMILAR TAXA

Distinguished from the other New Zealand *Lastreopsis* and *Parapolystichum* species by the harsh fronds, and distinctive stipes and rachises covered in bristly red-brown to black scales.

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. New Zealand: North Island, South Island, Stewart Island/Rakiura, Chatham Islands. Also Australia

HABITAT

Coastal to montane. Usually in forest, especially lowland, riparian forest.

GENUS

Lastreopsis

FAMILY

Dryopteridaceae

AUTHORITY

Lastreopsis hispida (Sw.) Tindale

SYNONYMS

Rumohra hispida (Sw.) Copel.; *Polystichum schkuhrii* C.Presl; *Nephrodium hispidum* (Sw.) Hook.; *Polypodium setosum* G.Forst.; *Polystichum hispidum* (Sw.) J.Sm.; *Aspidium hispidum* Sw.; *Dryopteris hispida* (Sw.) Kuntze; *Lastrea hispida* (Sw.) Houlston et T.Moore



Stokes Valley, Lower Hutt. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 23/04/2011, Licence: CC BY.



Short glandular hairs and scales on rachis. Stokes Valley, Lower Hutt. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 22/11/2012, Licence: CC BY.

TAXONOMIC NOTES

In a recent reassessment of the generic position of *Lastreopsis* Labiak et al. (2015) placed most of the New Zealand species of *Lastreopsis* within *Parapolystichum*. Gardner et al. (2017) completed the transfer—confirming in the process the findings of Labiak et al. (2015) that *Lastreopsis hispida* and *L. velutina* are still correctly assigned to *Lastreopsis*.

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown provided plants are planted in a permanently moist, shaded, well drained, humus enriched soil.

ETYMOLOGY

lastreopsis: Like *Lastrea*, a fern known to the ancient Greeks; from the greek *Lastrea* and *opsis*

hispida: Roughly hairy

NVS CODE

LASHIS

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 82

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 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.

Otago: 2025 | Regionally Not Threatened Help

The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Otago conservation status information is sourced from the "[Conservation Status of Indigenous Vascular Plants in Otago, 2025](#)" Jarvie S et al. (2025) report.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Brownsey PJ, Smith-Dodsworth JC. 2000. *New Zealand Ferns and Allied Plants*. David Bateman, Auckland, NZ. 168 p.

Gardner JJS, Perrie L, Shepherd L, Nagalingum NS. 2017. Taxonomic Placement of Unassigned Species of *Lastreopsis* Ferns (Dryopteridaceae) Using Phylogeny. *Systematic Botany* 42(3): 385–391.

<https://doi.org/10.1600/036364417X695952>.

Jones DL. 1998. *Lastreopsis*. *Flora of Australia* 48, *Ferns Gymnosperms and allied groups*: 405–415. ABR/CSIRO Victoria, Australia.

Labiak PH, Sundue M, Rouhan G, Moran RC. 2015. New combinations in *Lastreopsis* and *Parapolystichum* (Dryopteridaceae). *Brittonia* 67: 79–86.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (12 November 2012). Description adapted from Jones (1998) and Brownsey & Smith-Dodsworth (2000).

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/lastreopsis-hispida/>

PDF DATE

27 May 2026