

Loxogramme dictyopteris

COMMON NAME

lance fern, whare ngārara

SYNONYMS

Polypodium cunninghamii Hook.; *Polypodium dictyopteris* Mett.; *Dictyopteris lanceolata* J.Sm.; *Anarthropteris lanceolata* (Hook. f.) Pic.Serm.; *Polypodium attenuatum* sensu A.Rich.; *Anarthropteris dictyopteris* (Mett.) Copel.; *Anarthropteris lanceolata* (J.Sm.) L.B.Moore in Allan; *Dictymia lanceolata* J.Sm. ex Hook.f.

FAMILY

Polypodiaceae

AUTHORITY

Loxogramme dictyopteris (Mett.) Copel.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

Yes

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Ferns

NVS CODE

LOXDIC

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 74

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North, South and Chatham Islands, widespread in the North Island except for the central volcanic plateau and adjacent axial ranges, common in the northern South Island to Greymouth and Banks Peninsula. On the Chatham Islands scarce, reaching its national southern limit at Canister Cove, Rangiauria (Pitt Island).

HABITAT

Coastal to montane but mostly in coastal and lowland areas. *Loxogramme* seems to be most abundant in regions where base rich rocks such as basalt, limestone and calcareous sandstones and mudstones are exposed, in these sites it often forms luxuriant carpets on shaded rock outcrops. However, *Loxogramme* is not tied to base rich rocks and is sometimes nearly as common on rhyolite and ignimbrite exposures. It is also a common low epiphyte on trees, especially in alluvial forest.



Waitakere Range. Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



Waitakere Range. Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe

FEATURES

Epiphytic, rupestral or terricolous fern forming leafy patches over substratum, Rhizomes tufted, scaly, producing numerous creeping, proliferous roots; these producing new plants at intervals. Fronds undivided, subcoriaceous, 70-300 × 7-23 mm, adaxially dark green to bright green above, abaxially paler, narrowly elliptic (rarely broadly so to almost rhomboidal), tapering to an acute apex, base narrowly cuneate extending as an indistinct stipe wing; midrib prominent, veins inconspicuous, reticulate. Sori oval, prominent, abaxially sunken, thereby forming a prominent bulge on the adaxial laminal surface, in one row either side of midrib set away from pinna margins, indusia absent. Spores orange-brown.

SIMILAR TAXA

Easily recognised by the proliferous roots, such that this species usually covers much of the surrounding substratum in a mass of simple, subcoriaceous, dark green to bright green fronds. The prominent, oval, abaxially sunken sori are also characteristic of this species.

FLOWERING

Not applicable - spore producing

FLOWER COLOURS

No flowers

FRUITING

Not applicable - spore producing

LIFE CYCLE

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Although it can be cultivated *Loxogramme* is often difficult to maintain. It does best in shaded, permanently damp (but not waterlogged) conditions, planted in a rich, free draining soil enriched with lime and humus.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (13 January 2012). Description adapted from 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
Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 2009 Vol. 11 No. 4 pp. 285-309

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/loxogramme-dictyopteris/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/loxogramme-dictyopteris/>