Loxogramme dictyopteris

COMMON NAME
Lance fern

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
2012 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES
2009 | Not Threatened
2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION
Endemic. New Zealand: North, South and Chatham Islands, widespread in the North Island except for the central volca
nic 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.
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. Its 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

CITATION
Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): Loxogramme dictyopteris Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.
https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/loxogramme-dictyopteris/ (Date website was queried)

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