

# Loxogramme dictyopteris

## COMMON NAMES

lance fern, whare ngārara

## BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Ferns

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Epiphytic, rupestral or terricolous fern forming leafy patches over substratum. **Rhizomes** tufted, scaly, producing numerous creeping, proliferous roots; these producing new plants at intervals. **Fron**ds 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.

## DISTRIBUTION

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

## 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.

## GENUS

Loxogramme

## FAMILY

Polypodiaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Loxogramme dictyopteris* (Mett.) Copel.



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



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

## 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.

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

Yes

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

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.

## NVS CODE

LOXDIC

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

$2n = 74$

## 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

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

Thorsen MJ, Dickinson KJM, Seddon PJ. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285–309. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ppees.2009.06.001>.

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (13 January 2012). Description adapted from Brownsey & Smith-Dodsworth (2000)

## MORE INFORMATION

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

## PDF DATE

27 May 2026