Notogrammitis crassior

COMMON NAMES
dwarf strap fern

BIOSTATUS
Native

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

CATEGORY
Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Ferns

DETAILED DESCRIPTION
Terrestrial or rupestral fern. **Rhizome** long-creeping (rarely short-creeping), often mat-forming; paleae light brown, ovate to ovate-lanceolate, rarely lanceolate, obtuse to acute, 1.0–3.5 × 0.4–1.2 mm. **Stipes** indistinct, winged almost to base; stipe hairs absent. **Lamina** (4)–5–19–(30) × (2)–2.5–3.4–(5) mm; spathulate to linear-spathulate, rarely broadly oblanceolate, obtuse to broadly acute; lamina hairs occasionally present, sparse, brown, multicellular, to 0.7 mm; texture thickly coriaceous; veins invisible, endings not darkened; midrib slightly raised or completely invisible on underside of lamina, concolorous. **Sori** subglobose to globose, sometimes ± coenosoroid, usually confluent when mature, usually terminal on frond, 1–4–(5) pairs, 1–3 × 1–2 mm, to 8 mm long when coenosoroid; soral vein ± equal in length to basiscopic vein, neither reaching the margin. **Sporangia** (240)–252.5–319.1–(400) µm long; indurated cells of annulus (10)–11–14–(20). **Spores** (31)–39.2–53.6–(65) µm diameter.



Mount Ruapehu. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 08/02/2012, Licence: CC BY.



Mount Ruapehu. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 08/02/2012, Licence: CC BY.

SIMILAR TAXA
Distinguished from the other New Zealand species of *Notogrammitis* by the combination of having a creeping rhizome, fronds 5–19 × 2–3.4 mm, these usually bearing < 3 pairs of sori; with the sori 1–3 mm long and subglobose to globose.

DISTRIBUTION
Indigenous. New Zealand: North Island (Mt Hikurangi south but generally scarce), South Island, Stewart Island/Rakiura, Campbell Island/Motu Ihupuku, Macquarie Island. Also known from Australia (New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania), South America (Chile, Argentina), Falkland Islands, South Georgia, Tristan da Cuntha, Gough Island, South Africa, Kerguelen Island, Marion Island, Crozet Island.

HABITAT
Coastal to alpine (strictly subalpine to alpine in the North Island) mostly in the wetter parts of the main islands of New Zealand. A common fern on boulders and cliff faces, earth banks and stony soils and stream banks. Rarely extends into forest and then only in the southern part of its range

GENUS
Notogrammitis

FAMILY
Polypodiaceae

AUTHORITY
Notogrammitis crassior (Kirk) Parris

SYNONYMS
Polypodium billardieri var. pumilum (J.B.Armstr.) Cheeseman; Polypodium billardierei f. nana (Franchet) Skottsb.; Grammitis australis var. alpina S.Jones; Grammitis australis var. nana Franchet; Polypodium australe var. pumilum (J.B.Armstr.) Cockayne; Polypodium crassium Kirk; Polypodium pumilum (J.B.Armstr.) Cockayne; Grammitis kerguelenensis Tardieu; Grammitis nana Brack.; Grammitis pumila J.B.Armstr.; Grammitis armstrongii Tindale; Polypodium australe var. minutum F.Muell.

TAXONOMIC NOTES
The New Zealand species of *Grammitis* along with *Ctenopteris heterophylla* and one Australian *Grammitis* (*G. garrettii*) one Lord Howe (*G. diminuta*) and one species endemic to the Moluccas and Indonesian (*G. kairatuensis*) have traditionally been placed in *Grammitis* (Parris & Given 1976; Parris 1998). However, these species (with the exception of *G. diminuta*, *G. kairatuensis* and *G. stenophylla*; B.S.Parris *pers. comm*. to P.J. de Lange January 2011) have now been transferred to a new genus, *Notogrammitis* Parris (Perrie & Parris 2012). *Notogrammitis crassior* is the fern that has been known in New Zealand for some time, incorrectly (see Perrie & Parris 2012) as *Grammitis poepiggiana*.

ENDEMIC TAXON
No

ENDEMIC GENUS
No

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE
Difficult—should not be removed from the wild

ETYMOLOGY
notogrammitis: From the Greek noto- ‘southern’ and gramma ‘line’, referring to this new genus of southern strap ferns which were previously in Grammitis.

NVS CODE
NOTCRA

CHROMOSOME NUMBER
2n = 74

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
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
Parris BS. 1998. Grammitidaceae. *Flora of Australia 48, Ferns Gymnosperms and allied groups*: 450–468. ABRS/CSIRO Victoria, Australia.
Parris BS, Given DR. 1976. A taxonomic revision of *Grammitis* Sw. (Grammitidaceae: Filicales) in New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany 14(1)*: 85–111. https://doi.org/10.1080/0028825X.1976.10428655.
Perrie LR, Parris BS. 2012. Chloroplast DNA sequences indicate the grammitid ferns (Polypodiaceae) in New Zealand belong to a single clade, *Notogrammitis* gen. nov. *New Zealand Journal of Botany 50(4)*: 457–472. https://doi.org/10.1080/0028825X.2012.735247.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (25 April 2011). Description from Parris & Given (1976).

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/notogrammitis-crassior/ (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/notogrammitis-crassior/

PDF DATE

25 May 2026