

# Notogrammitis rigida

## COMMON NAMES

southern strapfern

## BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Ferns

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tufted, terrestrial, rupestral or epiphytic fern. **Rhizome** sub-erect to short-creeping; paleae red-brown, lanceolate, acute, 8.0–13.0 × 1.0–1.2 mm. **Stipe** indistinct, winged almost to base; stipe hairs absent. **Lamina** (90)–100.2–170.6–(220.0) × (10)–10.2–11–(18) mm; linear-oblong to oblong, acute, lamina hairs absent or scattered, mainly on midrib, brown, multicellular, to 1 mm long; texture thickly coriaceous; veins invisible or rarely slightly raised on lower surface in dried material; endings not darkened; midrib slightly raised on lower surface, concolorous with or darker than lamina. **Sori** oblong to linear, oblique, in middle and upper part of frond, c. 20–30 pairs, 2–10 × 1.5–3.0 mm; soral vein extending beyond the sorus, equal in length to the basiscopic vein, both sometimes branching and anastomosing, both nearly reaching the margin. **Sporangia** (250)–293.9–349.1–(400) µm long; indurated cells of annulus (10)–10.8–12.8–(16). **Spores** (33)–37.4–46.0–(57) µm diameter.

## SIMILAR TAXA

A distinctive species unlikely to be confused with any other strap-fern. The bright green, leathery fronds, 10 or more mm wide, with their irregular marginal lobes and projections immediately distinguish this from all other indigenous strap-ferns.

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (Fiordland coast), Stewart Island/Rakiura, Auckland Islands.

## HABITAT

Coastal. Usually terrestrial, this fern is confined to mossy rock faces, shaded cliff faces and recesses just above the high tide mark. It is occasionally found as a low epiphyte in coastal shrubland.

## THREATS

Generally regarded as a naturally uncommon species. This species is characteristic of the high rainfall portions of the coastline of Fiordland, Stewart Island/Rakiura and the Auckland Islands. Within these habitats it can at times be locally common though often sparsely distributed in its occurrences. There is, as yet, no evidence of any decline happening within this species range.

## GENUS

Notogrammitis

## FAMILY

Polypodiaceae



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Bowen Falls, Milford. Photographer: Gillian M. Crowcroft, Licence: All rights reserved.

## AUTHORITY

*Notogrammitis rigida* (Hombron) Parris

## SYNONYMS

*Grammitis crassa* Fée; *Grammitis rigida* Hombron; *Polypodium australe* var. *rigida* (Hombron) Cockayne; *Polypodium billardierei* var. *rigidum* (Hombron) Cockayne

## 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 been transferred to a new genus, *Notogrammitis* Parris (Perrie & Parris 2012).

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

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

## 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*.

**rigida**: Rigid

## NVS CODE

NOTRIG

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, Sp

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, SO

2004 | Sparse

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

## 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>.

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 (25 April 2011). Description from Parris & Given (1976)

### **NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION**

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### **MORE INFORMATION**

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/notogrammitis-rigida/>

### **PDF DATE**

27 May 2026