

# Polystichum cystostegia

## COMMON NAMES

mountain shield fern

## BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Ferns

## FLOWER COLOURS

No flowers

## GENUS

Polystichum

## FAMILY

Dryopteridaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Polystichum cystostegia* (Hook.) J.B. Armstr.

## SYNONYMS

*Aspidium cystostegia* Hook.; *Dryopteris cystostegia* (Hook.) Kuntze;  
*Polystichum cystostegia*

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## ORTHOGRAPHY NOTE

The orthography of the species epithet has varied from “*cystostegia*” to “*cystostegium*”. The International Plant Names Database has resolved the matter, with the preference for “*cystostegia*” thus:

“*Polystichum cystostegia* (Hook.) J.B. Armstr.

*Trans. & Proc. New Zealand Inst.* 13: 364. 1880 [Apr 1881] (as ‘cystostigium’)

Remarks: The epithet “*cystostegia*” is a noun in apposition. Etymology: Greek *cystis*, bladder, sac, and *stegos*, roof, lid [Basionym protologue: ‘the involucre are unlike those of any other species, being singularly thin and membranaceous, covering the sori with a large (in proportion to the size of the plant) hemispherical peltate bladdery lid.’]

## ETYMOLOGY

**polystichum**: Many rows (of sori); from the Greek *polus* and *stikhos*; parallel rows of spore cases

**cystostegia**: Bladder cover (indusium)

## NVS CODE

POLCYS

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 164



Mt Taranaki, January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



*Polystichum cystostegia*. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened

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.

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/polystichum-cystostegia/>

## PDF DATE

27 May 2026