

# Pteris dentata subsp. flabellata

## COMMON NAMES

toothed brake, South African brake

## BIOSTATUS

Exotic

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Ferns

## SIMILAR TAXA

*Pteris tremula* from which *P. dentata* differs by the 1–2–(3) pinnate fronds. The pinnae of sterile fronds are distinctly pectinate.

## DISTRIBUTION

Naturalised. New Zealand: North Island (Auckland and Hamilton). Indigenous to South Africa.

## HABITAT

An uncommon urban fern that is usually found on base rich substrates such as basalt rock, basalt stone and/or concrete walls in urban areas.

## GENUS

Pteris

## FAMILY

Pteridaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Pteris dentata* subsp. *flabellata* (Thunb.) Runemark

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## YEAR NATURALISED

1979

## ORIGIN

South Africa

## CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Hand pull and burn—ideally before sporangia are ripe

## CULTIVATION

*Pteris dentata* is very occasionally cultivated and all wild occurrences appear to have stemmed from deliberate nearby plantings. Although cold sensitive, once established *P. dentata* is remarkably resilient, e.g., it has survived repeated attempts to eradicate it from the grounds of the University of Auckland since it first established there in the 1970s. It was first recorded wild in 1979 (Heenan et al. 1999).



*Pteris dentata*, near Thomas Building, University of Auckland, November 2005. Photographer: Peter J de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.



*Pteris dentata* plants growing on a concrete retaining wall, near Thomas Building, University of Auckland, November 2005. Photographer: Peter J de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## ETYMOLOGY

**pteris:** A fern known to the ancient Greeks; from the Greek pteris

**dentata:** Toothed

**flabellata:** Fan shaped; from the Latin flabellum; shape of the leaves

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Heenan PB, de Lange PJ, Glenny DS, Breitwieser I, Brownsey PJ, Ogle CC. 1999. Checklist of dicotyledons, gymnosperms, and pteridophytes naturalised or casual in New Zealand: additional records 1997–1998. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 37(4): 629–642. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0028825X.1999.9512658>.

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet Prepared for NZPCN by: P.J. de Lange (18 January 2012).

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/pteris-dentata-subsp-flabellata/>

## PDF DATE

25 May 2026