

# Pteris dentata subsp. flabellata

## COMMON NAME

toothed brake, South African brake

## FAMILY

Pteridaceae

## AUTHORITY

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

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Ferns

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## 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.

## SIMILAR TAXA

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

## YEAR NATURALISED

1979

## ORIGIN

South Africa

## CONTROL TECHNIQUES

### Disposal Method

Hand pull and burn—ideally before sporangia are ripe

### Preferred Control

As above

## 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

## Notes

*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).

## ATTRIBUTION

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



*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.

## 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>.

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Pteris dentata* subsp. *flabellata* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/pteris-dentata-subsp-flabellata/> (Date website was queried)

## MORE INFORMATION

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