

# Pyrrosia elaeagnifolia

## COMMON NAME

leather-leaf fern, pyrrosia

## SYNONYMS

*Pyrrosia serpens* sensu Allan (1961); *Pyrrosia eleagnifolia* (Bory) Hovenkamp orth. var.

## FAMILY

Polypodiaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Pyrrosia elaeagnifolia* (Bory) Hovenkamp

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Ferns

## NVS CODE

PYRELE

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 74

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Kermadec, Three Kings, North, South, Stewart and Chatham Islands.

## HABITAT

Coastal to montane. Common as an epiphyte on both indigenous and exotic trees and shrubs, also on rocks, cliffs faces and in urban areas on buildings, walls, bridges and fence posts.

## FEATURES

Epiphytic or rupestral rhizomatous fern. Rhizomes long-creeping, often densely interwoven, young portions densely invested in red-brown to fawn coloured scales. Stipes reduced to phyllopodia borne in intervals along rhizome. Fronds coriaceous, fleshy to almost succulent, undivided, 30-200 × 5-20(-30) mm; adaxially yellow-green to dark green (rarely glaucescent), glabrescent, initially sparsely covered in long straight to somewhat flexuous pale-yellow to translucent caducous hairs; abaxially densely covered in fawn or white-coloured stellate hairs, aside from midrib, veins not evident on either surface; lamina variable; sterile examples broadly ovate, rhomboidal, suborbicular, to elliptic (very rarely linear); fertile linear, linear-lanceolate to suborbicular. Sori without indusia, ovoid, ellipsoid to rounded, in 2-3(-4) irregular rows (rarely more) either side of midrib and set away from frond margins. Spores yellow.



Peel Forest. Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



Kapiti Island. Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe

## SIMILAR TAXA

None

## FLOWERING

N.A.

## FLOWER COLOURS

No flowers

## FRUITING

N.A.

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Very easily grown. Does best in dry, sunny situations. An excellent plant for rockeries, stone walls and in pots. This species often self establishes into gardens within urban areas as it is commonly found growing on the trunks of introduced trees and shrubs in urban parks, street avenues and urban indigenous forest remnants.

## ETYMOLOGY

**pyrrrosia:** Flame coloured; from the Greek purros; the colour of the hairs on its leaves

**elaegnifolia:** Eleagnus leaf

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 9 April 2011. Description by P.J. de Lange.

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Pyrrosia elaeagnifolia* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/pyrrosia-elaegnifolia/> (Date website was queried)

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/pyrrosia-elaegnifolia/>