

Anogramma leptophylla

COMMON NAMES

Jersey fern, annual fern

BIOSTATUS

Native

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Ferns

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Diminutive, tufted, winter dormant, early spring to mid summer-green fern, which dries off by mid to late summer, appearing dead. **Rhizomes** small, hairy. **Stipes** red-brown, glabrous. **Fronde**s 10–60 mm long, ovate or narrowly ovate, 2–3-pinnate, 8–50 x 7–30 mm, pale green or yellow-green, somewhat membraneous and delicate, glabrous. **Sterile** fronds smaller than fertile, appearing first. **Ultimate frond divisions** fan-shaped and deeply notched. **Sori** near tips of pinnae, one per segment.

SIMILAR TAXA

None

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. New Zealand: North Island, South Island—easterly in its distribution. Also Australia, South America, Africa, India and Europe.

HABITAT

Clay banks, alluvial banks, rock faces and overhangs. Often associated with liverworts.

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: Sp, DPR, DPT, SO

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

THREATS

This species is mainly threatened through habitat loss by competition with weeds, and by the removal of surrounding vegetation.

DETAILED TAXONOMY

FAMILY

Pteridaceae

AUTHORITY

Anogramma leptophylla (L.) Link

SYNONYMS

Polypodium leptophyllum L., *Grammitis leptophylla* Swartz, *Gymnogramme leptophylla* Desv., *Gymnogramme novae-zelandiae* Colenso; *Osmunda leptophylla* (L.) Savigny in Lam.; *Hemionitis leptophylla* (L.) Lag.; *Acrostichum leptophyllum* (L.) Lam. et DC.; *Asplenium leptophyllum* (L.) Sw.; *Grammitis leptophylla* (L.) Sw.

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No



Port Hills, Christchurch. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken: 28/12/2022, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Sori on frond underside, Mt Wellington Auckland. Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 11/10/2021, Licence: CC BY-NC.

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

ECOLOGY

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult and should not be removed from the wild.

OTHER INFORMATION

PLANT OF THE MONTH

This plant has been featured as a Plant of the Month – see [Trilepidea: NZPCN newsletter for July 2017](#) for the full story.

ETYMOLOGY

anogramma: From the Greek *ano* 'upward' or 'above' and *gramma* 'lined' or 'written', referring to the sori maturing first near the tips

leptophylla: Slender leaf

NVS CODE

ANOLEP

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 52, 58

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: DP, RR, SO, Sp

2012 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: EF, RR, SO, Sp

2009 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: SO, EF, RR, Sp

2004 | Gradual Decline

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Otago: 2024 | Threatened – Regionally Critical | Qualifiers: DPR, DPS, DPT, NR, PF, Sp

REFERENCING AND CITATIONS

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Moss T. 1988. The *Anogramma-Targionia* association. *Wellington Botanical Society Bulletin* 44: 16–18.

Brownsey PJ, Smith-Dodsworth JC. 2000. New Zealand Ferns and Allied Plants. David Bateman, Auckland, NZ. 168 p.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet Prepared for NZPCN by: P.J. de Lange (17 April 2011). Description adapted from Brownsey & Smith-Dodsworth.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/anogramma-leptophylla/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/anogramma-leptophylla/>

PDF DATE

11 March 2025