

Hypolepis amaurorachis

SYNONYMS

Hypolepis subantarctica Brownsey et Chinnock; *Polypodium rugosulum* sensu Hook.f.; *Polypodium viscidum* sensu Hook.f.; *Hypolepis rugosula* sensu Dobbie; *Hypolepis subantarctica* Brownsey et Chinnock; *Polypodium punctatum* sensu Cheeseman; *Cheilanthes amaurorachis* Kunze; *Dryopteris punctata* sensu Cheeseman

FAMILY

Dennstaedtiaceae

AUTHORITY

Hypolepis amaurorachis (Kunze) Hook.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Ferns

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 104

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, EF, SO, Sp

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: EF, SO, Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: SO, EF

2004 | Sparse

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. New Zealand: southern South Island (Catlins and Fiordland coastline), Rēkohu / Wharekauri / Chatham Island, Auckland Islands and Campbell Island/Motu Ihupuku. Australia: Victoria and Tasmania.

HABITAT

A short-lived species favouring freshly disturbed ground in coastal habitats and lowland forest (Not far from the coast). Often frequenting the margins of seal haul outs, and sea bird colonies, also present along track sides. On Campbell Island/Motu Ihupuku it grows where elephant seals congregate and also in and around tussock grasses in places kept open by the passage of seals and sea birds.



North Shore, Milford Sound. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



North Shore, Milford Sound. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Rhizome long-creeping, 20–25 mm diam., covered in red-brown hairs. Stipes 70–230–(450) mm long, 1.0–3.5 mm diameter, dark red-brown, bearing abundant colourless or pale-brown glandular hairs up to 2 mm long. **Laminae** narrowly ovate to ovate, 150–550 × 100–350 mm, bipinnate at apex, tripinnate at base. **Rachis** dark red-brown at base becoming paler above and often green at apex, densely covered in colourless or pale-brown glandular hairs up to 1.5 mm long. **Primary pinnae** in 15–30 pairs + pinnatifid apex, opposite or alternate, lower arising at (20)–30–70°, upper ones at 70–90°, longest ones below the middle 50–200 × 20–90 mm; lowest pairs 30–100 mm apart, middle ones 15–50 mm apart; upper ones parallel-sided or narrowly ovate, lower ones ovate or narrowly ovate. **Secondary pinnae** ovate to ± parallel-sided, longest 5–45 × 10–20 mm, those on the lower pinnae decreasing markedly in length along the pinnae. **Tertiary pinnae** up to 6 × 10 mm, deeply incised reaching margin at a tooth apex. **Hairs**: colourless glandular hairs (0.3–0.7 mm on laminae, up to 1 mm on midribs) interspersed with a few bristly colourless hairs densely covering both surfaces of lamina, lamina margins, and pinna midribs and costae. **Sori** in 1–3 pairs on ultimate pinnules, originating away from margin, slightly protected by reflexed margins of pinnules. **Spores** pale brown, echinate.

SIMILAR TAXA

Most frequently confused with the hybrid *Hypolepis ambigua* × *H. rufobarbata*, which has a superficial similarity. However, this hybrid is sterile (the spores are aborted), and has much larger, coarser, dark green to reddish-green fronds that are scarcely as glandular hairy, and so less sticky. It could also be confused with *H. lactea* but that species has more strongly deltoid dark green fronds, darker rachises, and shorter, colourless glandular hairs on the fronds. These often rupture leaving a milky exudate covering the frond surfaces. *Hypolepis amaurohacis* could also be confused with *H. ambigua*. However, that species has much larger, more coarsely divided non-glandular hairy fronds.

FLOWER COLOURS

No flowers

LIFE CYCLE

Minute spores are wind dispersed (Thorsen et al., 2009).

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Unknown. However, probably easily grown in a cool, peaty soil in full sun.

THREATS

Hypolepis amaurohacis is a naturally uncommon, biological sparse species occupying freshly disturbed coastal and lowland habitats. It is probably short-lived and so transient, appearing in suitable habitats as and when the opportunity arise.

ETYMOLOGY

hypolepis: From the greek hypo (under) and lepis (scale), referring to the position of the sori on the ferns

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (6 March 2008). Description from Brownsey & Chinnock (1984).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Brownsey PJ, Chinnock RJ. 1984. A Taxonomic revision of the New Zealand species of *Hypolepis*. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 22(1): 43–80. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0028825X.1984.10425234>.

Thorsen MJ, Dickinson KJM, Seddon PJ. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285–309. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ppees.2009.06.001>.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/hypolepis-amaurorachis/>