

Asplenium lamprophyllum

SYNONYMS

None

FAMILY

Aspleniaceae

AUTHORITY

Asplenium lamprophyllum Carse

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Ferns

NVS CODE

ASPLAM

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 144

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island (Te Pahi south to near Wanganui and the northern Hawke's Bay but only common north of Mokau and Gisborne).

HABITAT

Coastal to montane. Mostly found within alluvial forest, always in shaded sites or on the buttresses of swamp trees, or in other forested areas on free draining soils, on clay banks, or on basalt or limestone rock outcrops and rock strewn ground. Usually forming carpet over extensive areas.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Rhizome creeping, up to 150 mm long, pale green with a few scattered scales, stoloniferous. **Stipes** 60–200 mm long, pale green above, brown below, deeply grooved, covered in small, very dark, triangular to ovate scales which have thick cell walls. **Laminae** lanceolate to elliptic, 150–600 × 70–200 mm, light green, glossy above, thin, bipinnate. **Raches** green, scaly, prominently grooved. **Pinnae** 12–20 pairs, lanceolate to narrowly ovate, acuminate, stalked, 30–100 × 5–25 mm, scaly on underside; lower pinnae themselves pinnate, upper ones pinnatifid. **Pinnules** sessile or shortly stalked, elliptic, often deeply serrate, 10–20 × 5–15 mm. **Sori** 3–10 mm long, nearer mid-vein than margin. **Sporangia** orange brown.



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SIMILAR TAXA

Recognised by the widely creeping, stoloniferous growth habit, bright green, membranous, glossy above, paler below, 2- or more pinnate fronds which lack bulbils, and orange-brown sporangia. The fresh fronds, when crushed characteristically smell of oil of winter green.

LIFE CYCLE

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown but rather slow. Does best in a semi-shaded site, planted within a deep, rich, free draining soil. A beautiful plant that deserves to be more widely cultivated.

ETYMOLOGY

asplenium: From the Greek a- 'without' and splene 'spleen', a northern hemisphere species, the black spleenwort (*Asplenium adiantum-nigrum*), was once believed to be a cure for diseases of the spleen.

PLANT OF THE MONTH

This plant has been featured as a Plant of the Month – see [Trilepidea: NZPCN newsletter for January 2009](#) for the full story.

ATTRIBUTION

Description from Brownsey (1977).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Brownsey PJ. 1977. A taxonomic revision of the New Zealand species of *Asplenium*. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 15(1): 39–86. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0028825X.1977.10429618>.

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/asplenium-lamprophyllum/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/asplenium-lamprophyllum/>

PDF DATE

17 September 2024