

# Asplenium oblongifolium

## COMMON NAMES

huruhuruwhenua, shining spleenwort

## BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Ferns

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

**Rhizome** stout, often forming a hard woody mass above ground, bearing pale brown, shiny, ovate, acuminate scales up to 30 × 7 mm. **Stipes** 80–200 mm long, dark brown, stout, densely covered in narrow scales with very long filiform apices. **Laminae** oblong to elliptic, 180 mm – 1 m × 100–350 mm wide, dark green and glossy above, pinnate. **Rachis** brown below, green above, stout, slightly ridged, scaly. **Pinnae** 4–15 pairs, lanceolate to narrowly oblong or ovate, acuminate, crenate-serrate to ± entire, cuneate at base, 40–150 × 10–30 mm, frequently covered in very small hair-like scales on the underside. **Sori** up to 20 mm long, not reaching lamina edge.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Often confused with *Asplenium obtusatum* G.Forst. for which it is distinguished by the rachis and foliar scales which have very long hair-like apices, and by the pinnae which are firm (usually not thick and fleshy), glossy above, and acuminate to ± acute. Some forms of *A. oblongifolium* found on rock stacks along the west coast of the North Island (from about Kawhia south) would repay further investigation as these have distinctly dull, rather coriaceous, fleshy, fronds, and broader rachis and foliar scales, thus intergrading somewhat with *A. obtusatum*. These features are retained in cultivation.

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: Kermadec Islands, Manawatāwhi / Three Kings Islands, North Island, South Island (Marlborough sounds south to Hokitika and Banks Peninsula), and Chatham Islands.

## HABITAT

Coastal to montane (but mostly found within coastal and lowland areas). Occupying a diverse range of habitats from coastal cliffs and rock stacks to deep forest where it may be an epiphyte or grow on the ground.

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

## DETAILED TAXONOMY

## FAMILY

Aspleniaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Asplenium oblongifolium* Colenso



*Asplenium oblongifolium*. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Licence: CC BY.



Sori. Wellington. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 14/04/1984, Licence: CC BY.

## SYNONYMS

*Asplenium lucidum* G.Forst.; *Asplenium lucidum* var. *paucifolium* Hook.; *Asplenium obtusatum* var. *integrifolium* Szyszyl. in Wawra; *Asplenium obtusatum* var. *lucidum* (G.Forst.) Hook. et Baker; *Asplenium durvillei* Mett. in Kuhn; *Tarachia lucida* (G.Forst.) Momose

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## ECOLOGY

### LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

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

### PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown though often rather slow to establish. An attractive and popular plant widely used for mass plantings in shaded sites. An excellent pot plant. Be vigilant for scale and mealy bug infestations which are a bane to the cultivation of all New Zealand asplenia.

### WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

UPL: Obligate Upland

Rarely is a hydrophyte, almost always in uplands (non-wetlands).

## OTHER INFORMATION

### CULTIVATION

Commonly available from plant and specialist native plant nurseries.

### 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.

**oblongifolium:** Oblong leaves

### NVS CODE

ASPOBL

### CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 144

### PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

### REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

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

The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Otago conservation status information is sourced from the "[Regional conservation status of indigenous vascular plants in Otago](#)" Jarvie S et al. (2024) report.

Auckland: 2025 | Regionally Not Threatened | Qualifiers: DPS, DPT Help

The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Auckland conservation status information is sourced from the "[Conservation status of vascular plant species in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland](#)" Simpkins E et al. (2025) report.

## REFERENCING AND CITATIONS

### 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>.

### ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 29 August 2007. Description from Brownsey (1977).

### MORE INFORMATION

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

### PDF DATE

08 September 2025