

# Asplenium appendiculatum subsp. appendiculatum

## COMMON NAMES

ground spleenwort

## BIOSTATUS

Native

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Ferns

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

**Rhizome** short, erect, bearing dark brown subulate scales up to 15 × 2 mm. **Stipes** 50–150 mm long, brown below, green above, covered in subulate to narrowly triangular scales with long filiform apices. **Laminae** lanceolate to elliptic, 100–300 × 50–150 mm, dark green, leathery or very thick and fleshy, slightly drooping, bi- to tripinnate. **Raches** green, scaly, prominently ridged. **Pinnae** 8–20 pairs, those at the base ovate, those above very narrowly ovate or elliptic, often with long relatively undivided acuminate apices, stalked, 30–100 × 5–30 mm, covered on underside in tiny scales. **Pinnules**: upper pinnules linear, entire and sessile; lower pinnules narrowly elliptic and pinnatifid or pinnate, up to 30 × 8 mm. **Sori** submarginal, 2–7 mm long.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Differs from *Asplenium flaccidum* G.Forst. by its strict terrestrial growth habit, being octoploid ( $2n = 288$ ) rather than tetraploid ( $2n = 144$ ) and by having a more or less erect frond and a larger spore size. It can be distinguished from *A. haurakiense* (Brownsey) Ogle by its allopatric distribution, and by the lack of a greatly elongated basal acroscopic pinnule on each pinna. *Asplenium appendiculatum* subsp. *appendiculatum* differs from *A. appendiculatum* subsp. *maritimum* (Brownsey) Brownsey by its preference for inland habitats, somewhat larger, lanceolate to elliptic fronds which tend to droop, more pinnae pairs, with those at the base ovate, and those above very narrowly ovate or elliptic, often with long relatively undivided acuminate tips; and by the lower pinnules being larger, and narrowly elliptic and pinnatifid to pinnate.

## DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. New Zealand: North Island (from Rotorua and near Pureora south), South Island (more common in the east), Stewart Island/Rakiura and Antipodes Islands. Also Australia and Tasmania.

## HABITAT

Lowland to subalpine (rarely coastal). Mainly in forested areas but also colonising bluffs and rocky outcrops, often in grey scrub. Strictly terrestrial.

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

## DETAILED TAXONOMY

## FAMILY

Aspleniaceae



Port Hills, Christchurch. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken: 25/04/2020, Licence: CC BY-NC.



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## AUTHORITY

*Asplenium appendiculatum* (Labill.) C.Presl subsp. *appendiculatum*

## SYNONYMS

*Asplenium terrestre* Brownsey subsp. *terrestre*

## ENDEMIC TAXON

No

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## ECOLOGY

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown. A very attractive fern which can be rather slow growing. Best in a large pot or planted in a deep, rich, moist soil in semi-shade. Prone to scale and mealy bug infections.

## OTHER INFORMATION

## 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.

**appendiculatum:** Appendiculate, with small appendages or projections, hanging in small fragments

## NVS CODE

ASPASA

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 288

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## REFERENCING AND CITATIONS

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Brownsey P.J. 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>.

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (3 February 2005). Description from: Brownsey (1971).

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Asplenium appendiculatum* subsp. *appendiculatum* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/asplenium-appendiculatum-subsp-appendiculatum/> (Date website was queried)

## MORE INFORMATION

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

## PDF DATE

13 October 2024