

Cranfillia deltoides

COMMON NAMES

korokio, mountain hard fern

BIOSTATUS

Native

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Ferns

FLOWER COLOURS

No flowers

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Rhizome creeping to erect, sometimes forming a small trunk. **Fron**ds dimorphic, 0.01–0.68 m long, 30–100 mm wide. **Stipe** 90–360 mm long, stramineous to brown; scales linear to narrowly triangular, acuminate, entire, dark red-brown, with straight white hairs at least at base of stipe.

Lamina narrowly triangular, pinnatisect or pinnate, with 6–30 or more pairs of pinnae; rachis and costae stramineous to brown, ± glabrous; sterile pinnae oblong to narrowly triangular, weakly falcate, acuminate, 32–80 × 8–10 mm, often pilosa, adnate; margins crenate; basal pinnae broader, falcate, deflexed, not adnate basiscopically; fertile pinnae 30.0–45.0 × 2.0–3.5 mm.

SIMILAR TAXA

None. Easily recognised by the creeping growth habit, rather narrow, deltoid, harsh textured (often crinkly) sterile fronds, and by the distinctive deflexed basal pinnae.

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. New Zealand: North Island (uncommon north of Auckland), South Island, Stewart Island/Rakiura, Chatham Islands. Also South-eastern Australia.

HABITAT

Coastal to montane. Usually in forested areas on cliff faces, rock outcrops, banks (especially roadside banks) and, less commonly on boulders and rocks along stream beds and in open forest.

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

DETAILED TAXONOMY

FAMILY

Blechnaceae

AUTHORITY

Cranfillia deltoides (Colenso) de Lange et Parris

SYNONYMS

Lomaria vulcanica Blume; *Spicanta vulcanica* (Blume) Kuntze; *Lomaria deflexa* Colenso; *Lomaria deltoides* Colenso; *Lomaria paucijuga* Colenso; *Blechnum vulcanicum* (Blume) Kuhn; *Cranfillia vulcanica* (Blume) Gasper et V.A.O.Dittrich; *Blechnum deltoides* (Colenso) T.C.Chambers



Dart Valley, Otago. Photographer: Jesse Bythell, Date taken: 23/03/2012, Licence: CC BY-NC.



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TAXONOMIC NOTES

Perrie et al. (2014) advocated for a broadened circumscription of Blechnaceae whereby a number of genera traditionally recognised as distinct from *Blechnum* were merged within it. However, this view has not met with universal acceptance (see Gasper et al. 2016) and does not seem to be followed worldwide (PPG 2016). From a New Zealand perspective, the decision to merge *Doodia* in *Blechnum*, and rejection of *Diploblechnum* has not been universally accepted either (e.g., Wilcox & Warden (2017)), and as such it is considered appropriate to follow world opinion and accept the taxonomy of Gasper et al. (2016) and recommendations of the PPG (2016).

Chambers & Wilson (2019) revised the *Blechnum vulcanicum* complex, electing to use *Blechnum* in preference to *Cranfillia* because this was 'favoured by the senior author'. In their revision they treated the widespread New Zealand and South-eastern Australian plants previously referred to as *Blechnum vulcanicum* or *Cranfillia vulcanica* as *Blechnum deltoides* (based on *Lomaria deltoides* Colenso). To accommodate this species in *Cranfillia* de Lange & Parris (2019) made the necessary combination for it, as *Cranfillia deltoides*.

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

ECOLOGY

FLOWERING

N.A.

FRUITING

N.A.

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Often fickle. Does better in cooler climates, preferring a shaded site panted in damp, rich, free draining soil. Dislikes competition.

OTHER INFORMATION

ETYMOLOGY

deltoides: From the Greek 'delta' the third letter of the alphabet and referring to three-sided shapes such as triangular or delta-shaped

NVS CODE

BLEVUL

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n=68

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

REFERENCING AND CITATIONS

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

- Chambers TC, Farrant PA. 1998. Blechnaceae. Flora of Australia 48, Ferns Gymnosperms and allied groups: 359–384. ABRIS/CSIRO Victoria, Australia.
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- de Lange PJ, Parris B. 2019. New combinations in *Cranfillia* (Blechnaceae: Polypodiopsida) for recent segregates of the *Blechnum vulcanicum* complex. *Telopea* 22: 153–156.
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- Perrie LR, Wilson RK, Shepherd LD, Ohlsen DJ, Batty EL, Brownsey PJ, Bayly MJ. 2014. Molecular phylogenetics and generic taxonomy of Blechnaceae ferns. *Taxon* 63(4): 745–758. <https://doi.org/10.12705/634.13>.
- PPG 1: The Pteridophyte Phylogeny Group 2016. A community-derived classification for extant lycophytes and ferns. *Journal of Systematics and Evolution* 54: 563–603. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jse.12229>.
- Wilcox M, Warden J. 2017. Botany of Hillsborough coast bush reserves, Manukau Harbour, Auckland. *Auckland Botanical Society Journal* 72: 32–46.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (19 September 2012). Description adapted from Chambers & Farrant (1998).

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/cranfillia-deltoides/>

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24 October 2024