

Selaginella kraussiana

COMMON NAME

Selaginella, African clubmoss

FAMILY

Selaginellaceae

AUTHORITY

Selaginella kraussiana (Kunze) A. Braun

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lycophytes (clubmosses, selaginella, quillworts)

NVS CODE

SELKRA

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Terrestrial. A lowland plant of sites with moderate fertility. Occurs mainly in damp, shaded sites eg tall forest, low forest, scrub, forest margins and streambanks.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FAC: Facultative

Commonly occurs as either a hydrophyte or non-hydrophyte (non-wetlands).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Small, carpet-forming groundcover. Roots long, fine. Stems creeping, slender, irregularly branched, rooting at nodes, forming loose mat. Leaves in rows, 2-4 mm. Spore cones rounded, 10 mm long.

SIMILAR TAXA

Superficially similar to many native mosses and leafy liverworts. It is actually a fern-ally that bears small cones underneath the leaves.

FLOWERING

N/A

FLOWER COLOURS

No flowers

LIFE CYCLE

Perennial. The plant has an eternal life span as it just keeps growing. Spores are dispersed by wind, boots, feet, stock and machinery. Stem fragments can be dispersed by soil and water movement as well as human activities.

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Spores are thought to be viable for more than a year (Carol West, pers. comm.). Reproduces sexually by releasing spores. Also reproduces vegetatively by creeping stems with adventitious roots. Spores are produced, in cones on the undersides of the leaves.

YEAR NATURALISED

1919

ORIGIN

C&S Africa



Taita, Lower Hutt. Aug 2001. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Licence: CC BY.



Selaginella kraussiana. Photographer: Auckland Regional Council, Licence: Public domain.

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental.

TOLERANCES

The plant is intolerant to drought and tolerant to shade and poor drainage. Resprouts after physical damage.

NATIONAL PEST PLANT ACCORD SPECIES

This plant is listed in the 2020 National Pest Plant Accord. The National Pest Plant Accord (NPPA) is an agreement to prevent the sale and/or distribution of specified pest plants where either formal or casual horticultural trade is the most significant way of spreading the plant in New Zealand. For up to date information and an electronic copy of the 2020 Pest Plant Accord manual (including plant information and images) visit the [MPI website](#).

CONTROL TECHNIQUES

To learn about the various control techniques for this species visit the Weedbusters [website](#).

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/selaginella-kraussiana/>