



Asplenium bulbiferum

Common Name(s):

Hen and chicken fern, pikopiko, mother spleenwort

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. North, South, Stewart and Chatham Islands

Habitat:

Coastal to subalpine. Usually in lowland forest where it is a common species of the ground-layer, especially in high rainfall areas. Commonly associated with riparian forest, and as a species of base-rich substrates. Frequently sympatric and so commonly forming hybrids with other asplenias. It is commonly sympatric with *A. gracillimum* Colenso.

Features*:

Rhizome short, stout, erect, bearing ovate scales up to 15×5 mm. Stipes 50-300 mm long, brown on underside, green above, stout, covered in small brown ovate scales. Laminae lanceolate to elliptic, 0.15-1.20 m, 70-300 mm, bi- to tripinnate, sometimes bearing bulbils. Raches pale green to yellow-green, scaly, prominently grooved, usually bulbiferous. Pinnae 15-30 (or more) pairs, ovate to narrowly ovate, acuminate, shortly stalked, $30-200 \times 10-50$ mm, scaly on underside, basal pair pointing downwards when fresh. Secondary pinnae sessile or shortly stalked, very narrowly elliptic to ovate or elliptic, obtuse, deeply serrate or sometimes almost pinnate, decreasing in size from base to apex, basal acroscopic pinnule often enlarged (up to 40×10 mm). Ultimate pinnules narrowly oblong, \pm entire to crenate-serrate, up to 10 mm long. Sori numerous, broad, submarginal, 2-4 mm long.

Flowering:

Not applicable - spore producing

Fruiting:

Not applicable - spore producing

Threats:

Not Threatened

*Attribution:

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (3 February 2005). Description from: Brownsey (1977)

References and further reading:

Brownsey, P.J. 1977: A taxonomic revision of the New Zealand species of *Asplenium*. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 15: 39-86.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1520



Caption: *Asplenium bulbiferum*
Photographer: Wayne Bennett



Caption: Silverstream, Upper Hutt.
Apr 2006.
Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe