



Asplenium flaccidum

Common Name(s):

Drooping spleenwort, hanging spleenwort

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Indigenous. Kermadec, Three Kings, North, South, Stewart, Chatham and Snares Islands. Also present in Australia and the wider Pacific

Habitat:

Coastal to montane (at the tree limit). In tall forest, scrub or rough boulder strewn ground. Mostly epiphytic on various native trees but also found on the ground.

Features*:

Mostly epiphytic. Rhizome short, stout, erect, bearing dark brown subulate scales up to 20×2 mm. Stipes 50-200 mm (or more) long, brown on underside, green above, flaccid, sparingly covered in small subulate scales with long filiform apices. Laminae lanceolate to elliptic, $150-900$ (or more) \times $50-250$ mm, dull green, thick, leathery, limp and pendulous, pinnate to bipinnate. Raches green, sparingly scaly. Pinnae in 5-20 (or more) pairs, linear, acuminate, long stalked, $50-150 \times 5-20$ mm; degree of dissection very variable, sometimes only divided into very short obtuse segments, sometimes pinnate. Pinnules very variable in length, from oblong and obtuse to linear and acute, up to 15×2 mm. Basal acroscopic pinnule occasionally much longer than that next to it. Sori submarginal, linear, 2-10 mm long. Spores (31-)36-44(-50) micrometre long, (19-)23-27(-33) micrometre wide

Flowering:

Not applicable - spore producing

Fruiting:

Not applicable - spore producing

Threats:

Not Threatened

*Attribution:

Description modified 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.

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 2009 Vol. 11 No. 4 pp. 285-309

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1521



Caption: *Asplenium flaccidum*
Photographer: Wayne Bennett



Caption: Sori, Dunedin
Photographer: John Barkla