



Asplenium lyallii

Common Name(s):

Lyall's spleenwort

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand: North (from Port Waikato south to Wellington), South (North-West Nelson otherwise mainly eastern), Stewart and Chatham Islands

Habitat:

Coastal to alpine. A basicole favouring base rich substrates but especially calcareous rocks (limestone and marble) and basalt rock. In tall forest, scrub or on exposed rock surfaces. Often present in cave entrances.

Features*:

Rhizome stout, ascending, bearing brown subulate to narrowly triangular scales up to 25×2 mm. Stipes 30-200 mm long, pale brown at base and on underside, green elsewhere, covered with scales similar to but smaller than those of the rhizome. Laminae lanceolate to elliptic, $40-400 \times 20-200$ mm, dark shiny green to dull grey-green, pinnate to bipinnate. Raches normally green, occasionally brown on the underside, often grooved, scaly. Pinnae 2-16 pairs, ovate to narrowly oblong, obtuse to acuminate, serrate to \pm entire, stalked, $10-100 \times 5-50$ mm, often covered on both surfaces with tiny scales. Lowermost pinnae normally at least partially lobed or divided at the base, sometimes completely pinnate; pinnules stalked, lanceolate to elliptic, obtuse, serrate to entire, up to 30×15 mm. Sori up to 10 mm long, not reaching lamina edge.

Flowering:

Not applicable - spore producing

Fruiting:

Not applicable - spore producing

Threats:

Not Threatened

*Attribution:

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.

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=1524



Caption: Henga, Chatham Island.
May 2013.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



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