



Asplenium richardii

Common Name(s):

Richards spleenwort

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand: North (Mt Honokawa, Mt Ruapehu, and parts of the Kaimanawa Range), and South Islands (mainly east of the Main Divide)

Habitat:

Montane to alpine. On basalt, limestone, schist and greywacke rock outcrops, cliff faces (where usually in crevices), amongst boulders, and on stream banks particularly under beech (*Nothofagus*) forest.

Features*:

Rhizome short, stout, erect, bearing dark brown subulate scales up to 20 × 2 mm. Stipes 50-150 mm long, brown on underside, green above, densely covered in subulate scales with filiform apices. Laminae ovate to narrowly ovate, 100-250 × 40-120 mm, dark green, relatively thin, normally tripinnate. Raches green, very scaly, slightly grooved. Pinnae 10-15 crowded and overlapping pairs, ovate to narrowly ovate, sub-acute, stalked, 20-80 × 10-40 mm. Secondary pinnae stalked, ovate, 10-20 × 10-15 mm, again pinnate or pinnatifid. Ultimate segments linear, acute or sub-acute, up to 8 mm long. Pinnae and pinnules not flattened in one plane but spreading in three dimensions. Sori 2-4 mm long, submarginal.

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.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1526



Caption: Arthurs Pass

Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



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