



Austroblechnum colensoi

Common Name(s):

Colenso's hard fern, peretao, petako

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand: North (from Warawara Forest south), South, Stewart, Chatham and Auckland Islands.

Habitat:

Coastal to montane. Usually within seepages on shaded steep banks, rock overhangs and fringing river gorges; also on sodden ground within cloud forest

Features*:

Stout fern of damp, shaded places, producing numerous cartilaginous to coriaceous fronds up to 1 m long (usually much less). Rhizomes short-creeping, scaly. Sterile frond stipes 60-400 mm long, base covered in dark red-black to black scales, laminae narrow elliptic, elliptic to almost rhomboid, undivided, 100-350(-800) x 25-600 mm, dark green to glaucous green above, paler beneath, cartilaginous or coriaceous. Sterile pinnae 1-10-paired, 100-200(-800) x 20-40(-80) mm, of similar size except for basal pairs which are reduced to margin flanges, apices tapering, margins smooth, glabrous, bases decurrent. Fertile fronds similar in stature, extremely slender, the terminal pinnae distinctly larger than the rest.

Flowering:

Not applicable (spore producing)

Fruiting:

Not applicable (spore producing)

Threats:

Not Threatened but very uncommon north of Auckland

*Attribution:

Fact Sheet by P.J. de Lange 7 March 2006. Description based on Brownsey and Dodsworth (2000) supplemented with observations made from herbarium specimens

References and further reading:

Brownsey, P.J.; Smith-Dodsworth, J.C. 2000: New Zealand ferns and allied plants. David Bateman Ltd, Auckland

Gasper, A.L.; de Oliveira Dittrich, V.A.; Smith A.R.; Salino, A. 2016: A classification for Blechnaceae (Polypodiales: Polypodiopsida): New genera, resurrected names, and combinations. *Phytotaxa* 275: 191-227.

Perrie, L.R.; Wilson, R.K.; Shepherd, L.D.; Ohlsen, D.J.; Batty, E.L.; Brownsey, P.J.; Bayly, M.J. 2014: Molecular phylogenetics and generic taxonomy of Blechnaceae ferns. *Taxon* 63(4): 745-758.

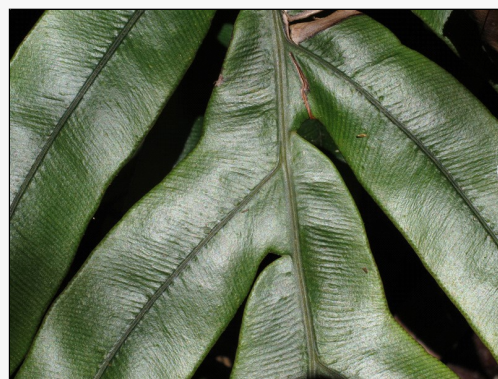
PPG 1: The Pteridophyte Phylogeny Group 2016: A community-derived classification for extant lycophytes and ferns. *Journal of Systematics and Evolution* 54: 563-603.

Pyner, T. 2017: A new classification of Blechnum. British Pteridological Society. <https://ebps.org.uk/new-classification-blechnum/>

Wilcox, M.; Warden, J. 2017: Botany of Hillsborough coast bush reserves, Manukau Harbour, Auckland. *Auckland Botanical Society Journal* 72: 32-46.



Caption: *Austroblechnum colensoi*
Photographer: Wayne Bennett



Caption: Dunedin
Photographer: John Barkla

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http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1543