



Asplenium flabellifolium

Common Name(s):

butterfly fern, walking fern, necklace fern

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Indigenous. New Zealand: North and South mostly easterly from the Bay of Islands. Also present in Australia

Habitat:

Coastal to subalpine. Usually in dry rocky ground, on lava and scoria fields, in grassy areas, within scrub, or along river banks in moderately open alluvial forest. Never found in deep shade or dense forest.

Features*:

Rhizome short, erect, bearing dark brown subulate scales with long filiform apices up to 6×5 mm. Stipes 1-10 cm long, green or yellow-green, slender, lacking scales. Laminae linear, $70-250 \times 10-25$ mm, light green, flaccid and often prostrate, pinnate. Raches weak, lacking scales, frequently extending beyond the uppermost pinnae and rooting at their apices. Pinnae 8-25 pairs, gradually decreasing in size from base to apex, fan shaped, crenate-dentate, cuneate at base, lowest $5-15 \times 5-20$ mm. Sori radiating along veins, up to 6 mm long.

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=2054



Caption: Sori

Photographer: John Barkla



Caption: Upper side of frond (left) and underside (right)

Photographer: John Barkla