



Asplenium obtusatum

Common Name(s):

shore spleenwort

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Indigenous. New Zealand: North (Cook Strait only), South, Chatham, Stewart, Snares, Antipodes, Auckland and Campbell Islands. Also South America as well as on many islands of the southern Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

Habitat:

A coastal fern confined in the northern part of its range to only the most exposed situations. Further south it grows not only on exposed cliffs but also in coastal vegetation where it often forms an important association with *Hebe elliptica* and *Blechnum durum*. Frequently associated with sea bird colonies.

Features*:

Rhizome stout, often forming a hard woody mass above ground, bearing brown, shiny, ovate, acuminate scales up to 15 x 4 mm. Stipes 40-300 mm long, dark brown at base, green above, stout, covered in ovate scales with acute or acuminate apices. Laminae ovate, 60-400 ~ 50-200 mm, dull green, very thick and fleshy, pinnate. Raches green, stout, prominently grooved and scaly. Pinnae 5-15 pairs, 20-narrowly ovate to oblong, obtuse to acute, crenate-serrate to entire, cuneate at base, 100 ~ 10-25 mm, scaly on the underside. Sori up to 10 mm long, not reaching to lamina edge.

Flowering:

Not applicable - spore producing

Fruiting:

Not applicable - spore producing

Threats:

Not Threatened

*Attribution:

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 29 August 2007. Description adapted 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.

Ogle CC (1987): Taxonomic changes in *Asplenium* (Aspleniaceae; Filicales) in New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 25: 591-593.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=2058



Caption: *Asplenium obtusatum*

Photographer: John Barkla



Caption: Sori, Taieri River Mouth

Photographer: John Barkla