



Asplenium polyodon

Common Name(s):

sickle spleenwort

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Indigenous. New Zealand: Kermadec, Three Kings, North, South, Stewart and Chatham Islands. Also Madagascar, Indo-Malaysian, Australia, and the Pacific Islands. In the South Island mainly western, in the east found as far south as Bull Creek on the coast south of Dunedin

Habitat:

Coastal to montane. In scrub and dense forest, often as an epiphyte but also on rock outcrops, fallen logs and on the ground.

Features*:

Rhizome stout, short creeping, densely covered in red-brown, narrowly triangular scales up to 10×1 mm. Stipes 100-300 mm long, dark brown, stiff, densely covered in scales similar to but smaller than those of the rhizome. Laminae lanceolate, 250-500 (or more) \times 100-200 mm, dark green and glossy above, paler and dull below, frequently pendulous, pinnate. Raches dark chocolate brown, very scaly. Pinnae 25 (or more) pairs, narrowly angular-ovate to ovate, sometimes with a large rounded basal acroscopic lobe, acuminate, doubly serrate, 50-100 \times 10-20 mm, scaly and with prominent veins on underside. Sori often slightly curved away from the midrib, up to 2 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.

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=2059



Caption: *Asplenium polyodon*
Photographer: Wayne Bennett



Caption: *Asplenium polyodon*
Photographer: Wayne Bennett