



Asplenium trichomanes subsp. quadrivalens

Common Name(s):

spleenwort

Current Threat Status (2012):

Threatened - Nationally Critical

Distribution:

Indigenous. In New Zealand known only from a few collections from the eastern Hawkes Bay where it was recently discovered (2008) at a few sites. It is also in Australia, Europe and probably elsewhere.

Habitat:

Unclear. Apparently lowland and at one site (Tangoio) it was collected from limestone outcrops. Other than that we know very little about it. It is suspected that a few collections probably came from gardens, and their status as representing truly wild populations is suspect.

Features*:

Plants tetraploid. Rhizome stout, erect, bearing dark brown subulate scales up to 5 mm long. Stipes 10-100 mm long, dark brown, shining, stiff, lacking scales except at the very base. Laminae linear, 50-300 mm long, dark green, sub-coriaceous, pinnate. Raches dark brown, shining, stiff, lacking scales. Pinnae sub-sessile, 15-25 (or more) pairs, oblong to more or less orbicular, crenate-serrate to more or less entire, 2-10 x 1-5 mm. Sori up to 3 mm long. Spores 34-39 microns long.

Flowering:

Not applicable - spore producing

Fruiting:

Not applicable - spore producing

Threats:

Unknown. This subspecies has only been collected a few times in New Zealand and recent attempts to rediscover it at these locations have so far been unsuccessful

*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=2060



Caption: Hawkes Bay, October 2008

Photographer: Leon Perrie