



Austroblechnum penna-marina

Common Name(s):

little hard fern, alpine hard fern

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Indigenous. New Zealand: North, South, Stewart, Chatham, Antipodes, Auckland, Campbell Islands. Also Macaquerie Island, Australia, South America and several other circum-Antarctic islands.

Habitat:

Coastal to alpine (mostly montane to alpine in the northern part of range, and scarce north of the Bay of Plenty and the Waikato) in open forest, subalpine scrub, grassland, alpine herbfield, turf (including coastal turf) and in moss field on the shaded sites of rock outcrops.

Features*:

Rhizome creeping. Fronds dimorphic, 40–120 × 6–12 mm. Stipe 15–200 mm long, dark red-brown at base, usually becoming stramineous towards lamina; scales somewhat bullate, linear to ovate, entire, red-brown. Lamina lanceolate, pinnate, with 4–34 pairs of pinnae; rachis and costae stramineous; scales mainly on lower surface, small, sparse, acuminate, entire, brown to red-brown; sterile pinnae oblong-obtuse or somewhat triangular, 3.5–8.0 × 2.0–4.2 mm, adnate with broad bases, contiguous; margins entire; basal pinnae shorter, rounder; fertile pinnae linear and somewhat falcate, 3.6–6.8 × 1.0–2.5 mm.

Flowering:

N.A.

Fruiting:

N.A.

Threats:

Not Threatened

*Attribution:

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (19 September 2012). Description adapted from Chambers & Farrant (1998)

References and further reading:

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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.

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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.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=2071



Caption: Rangaika, Chatham Island. Jun 2013.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



Caption: Craigieburn, Canterbury

Photographer: Jane Gosden