



## *Asplenium cimmeriorum*

### Common Name(s):

cave spleenwort

### Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

### Distribution:

New Zealand endemic. In the North Island known only from the cave entrances and limestone areas in the Waitomo area. The species is more common in the western South Island, where it has been recorded from Karamea south to Punakaiki.

### Habitat:

Primarily confined to heavily shaded, calcareous rocks in high rainfall areas, especially cave entrances and archways. Often found underneath other ferns such as *Blechnum chambersii* Tindale.

### Features\*:

Shortly-creeping, rhizomatous fern. Rhizomes up to 60 mm long, densely invested in blackish-brown scales, up to 10 x 4 mm. Stipes 25-130 mm long; stipes and rachises green, straw-coloured or blue-green, covered in subulate scales up to 25 x 1 mm. Laminae narrowly triangular or narrowly ovate, sometimes triangular or ovate, 2-3-pinnate, 35-220 x 15-70 mm, thin, dark green or blue-green, bearing scattered scales. Primary pinnae in 4-14(-17) pairs, 10-40 x 5-17 mm. Secondary pinnae linear or elliptic, the lower ones divided. Sori 1.5-3 mm long, extending along the ultimate segments, 1.5-3 mm long, margins of indusia entire.

### Flowering:

Not applicable - spore producing

### Fruiting:

Not applicable - spore producing

### Threats:

Probably more common than was believed when it was formally described in 1997. However it does seem to have a naturally sporadic distribution, particularly in the North Island, where forested, undisturbed entrances to caves are less common.

### \*Attribution:

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 28 October 2005. Description adapted from Brownsey & de Lange (1997).

### References and further reading:

Brownsey, P. J.; de Lange, P. J. 1997: *Asplenium cimmeriorum*, a new fern species from New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 35(3): 283-292

### For more information, visit:

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=222](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=222)



**Caption:** Waitomo

**Photographer:** Gillian Crowcroft



**Caption:** Ex. cult Mangapohue, Waitomo

**Photographer:** G. M. Crowcroft