



Asplenium scleroprium

Common Name(s):

Southern Shore Spleenwort

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand, South, Stewart, Chatham, Snares and Auckland Islands. In the South Island uncommon, known only from Bluff Hill and at Sandy point, Invercargill.

Habitat:

Coastal. A species of exposed sites on rocky headlands, cliff faces and at the margins of coastal shrubland. Usually found growing with and amongst *Asplenium obtusatum*.

Features*:

Stout, tufted fern. Rhizomes stout, erect, fleshy, densely invested in blackish-brown scales. Stipes 150-500 mm long, stipes and rachises brown below, green above. Covered in dense subulate scales. Laminae ovate to narrowly ovate or elliptic, pinnate, 150-500 x 80-200 mm, dark green, blue green, thick, somewhat fleshy, leathery, bearing scattered scales. Pinnae 50-130 x 10-20 mm, ovate to narrow ovate, apices tapering, margins regularly and deeply toothed. Sori up to 10 mm long, reaching margins at indentations

Flowering:

Not applicable - spore producing

Fruiting:

Not applicable - spore producing

Threats:

Aside from its mainland occurrences near Invercargill this species is not threatened. However nowhere is it common, the largest populations are probably on the Auckland Islands.

***Attribution:**

Fact Sheet prepared for the NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (12 August 2006). Description based on 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(1): 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=223



Caption: At Invercargill (January)

Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Caption: Invercargill

Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth