



Austroblechnum norfolkianum

Common Name(s):

None Known

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Indigenous. Common on Raoul Island (Kermadec Island group) and the Three Kings Islands, otherwise uncommon and sparingly distributed on mainly offshore islands from the Cavallis south to Mayor Island. Known on the Chatham Islands from South East (Rangatira) Island. Also on Norfolk Island where it is now seriously at risk of extinction

Habitat:

Strictly Coastal. This species is most frequently seen on the outer Hauraki Gulf offshore islands, and on the more remote Three Kings and Kermadecs. It favours shaded sites, usually in or near petrel colonies, or near penguin trails and nests.

Features*:

Tufted fern. Rhizomes stout, erect. Covered in old stipe ends. Stipes of sterile fronds 50-150 mm long, scaly at base. Sterile laminae narrowly elliptic, pinnate, 350-900 x 90-180 mm, dark green to bright green, never red-tinged. somewhat fleshy, upper surfaces shining, glabrous. Sterile pinnae in 35-60 pairs, longest at the middle, 50-90 x 8-18 mm, falcate and tapering to acute apices, gradually reducing to short flanges at base, margins finely toothed, bases adnate. Fertile fronds only slightly shorter than sterile.

Flowering:

Not applicable - spore producing

Fruiting:

Not applicable - spore producing

Threats:

Not threatened in New Zealand, although close to extinction on Norfolk Island. In New Zealand it has a primarily northern offshore island distribution, and is by and large uncommon except on the Kermadec and Three Kings Islands.

*Attribution:

Fact Sheet by P.J. de Lange 6 June 2005. Description from Brownsey & Smith-Dodsworth (2000).

References and further reading:

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Caption: cult. ex Gt Mercury Is.
Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Caption: Great Mercury Island
Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth

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