



Asplenium subglandulosum

Common Name(s):

blanket fern

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Indigenous. North and South Islands. In the North known from inland Hawkes Bay (an old record), the north-west Ruahine Ranges, near Cape Palliser, and possibly also Cape Te Rawhiti. In the South Island more widespread in the east from Marlborough south to Otago. Present in Australia.

Habitat:

Coastal to subalpine (1 - 1400 m.a.s.l.), saxicolous, usually on dry, exposed and sunny rock faces or crevices and joints with little (if any) associated vascular plant cover.

Features*:

Reddish-green to red-brown hairy fern of dry or exposed rock crevices. Rhizomes short, erect, ascending, covered in scales. Stipes and rachises pale chesnut-brown to dark red-brown at base, green above, copiously invested in pale brown to red-brown 0.1-2 mm long, non-glandular hairs. Stipe 5-70 x 0.5 mm diameter. Frond lamina 1-2-pinnate, narrowly elliptic, 15-150 x 6-45 mm, dark brownish-green to brown-green, densely covered in pale brown non-glandular hairs. Primary pinnae in 3-11 pairs, flabellate, ovate or bluntly and broadly ovate; bases oblique to unequally cuneate, shortly stalked; margins dentate or more or less entire; apices obtuse or more or less rounded; longest pinnae near middle of frond, these 3-23 x 3-22 mm, divided into secondary pinnae; these up to 10 x 9 mm. Sori 5 mm or less long.

Flowering:

Not applicable - spore producing

Fruiting:

Not applicable - spore producing

Threats:

A genuinely uncommon, naturally sparse fern. Although widespread it is easily overlooked and it is possible that some populations have been eliminated by quarrying. Because it is unusual it is rather vulnerable to overcollection by botanists, a factor which has threatened some populations in the recent past. It is quite likely that some populations are threatened by the spread of introduced weeds into its preferred cliff habitats. Nevertheless it would seem that these threats have had little impact on the species overall distribution. Populations of this species should be carefully monitored to determine their long-term stability.

*Attribution:

Fact Sheet Prepared for NZPCN by: P.J. de Lange (17 April 2011). Description adapted from Brownsey & Smith-Dodsworth.

References and further reading:

Brownsey, P.J.; Smith-Dodsworth, J.C. 2000: New Zealand Ferns and Allied Plants. Auckland, David Bateman

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=304



Caption: Alexandra
Photographer: John Barkla



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