



Asplenium chathamense

Common Name(s):

Chatham Island spleenwort

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Endemic. Chatham Islands (Chatham, Pitt, Mangere, Little Mangere, South East, Star Keys, Forty-Fours, Rabbit Islands, and on most other smaller islets and rock stacks)

Habitat:

Primarily found on coastal rocks and cliffs in rock crevices or on the ground. Also found in coastal scrub, open coastal forest and along creeksides.

Features*:

Rhizome short, erect, bearing blackish-brown subulate scales up to 25 × 3 mm. Stipes 50-350 mm long, 2-4 mm diameter, stiff, pale brown at the base, green above, bearing scattered subulate scales 1-4 mm long. Laminae elliptic or rhombic to ovate, 50-450 × 35-200 mm, dark shiny green on upper surface, lighter on undersurface, stiff, erect, glabrous except for a few scattered scales, bipinnate to often tripinnate at base. Rachis green, or occasionally pale brown on undersurface, bearing a few small scattered scales. Primary pinnae in 6-17 pairs, the upper ones narrowly elliptic to narrowly ovate decreasing regularly in size towards the apex, the lower ones narrowly ovate to ovate, the longest below the middle 25-150 × 10-70 mm. Secondary pinnae on the upper primary pinnae ± linear, undivided, with obtuse apices; those on the lower primary pinnae narrowly elliptic or ovate and divided into tertiary pinnae, the longest 10-60 × 6-20 mm. Tertiary pinnae usually linear, undivided, up to 10 × 2 mm, occasionally larger and divided into 2-4 ultimate segments, apices obtuse. Sori extending along ultimate pinnules, 2-10 mm long, margins of indusia entire. Spores 34-52 × 21-37 micrometre; perispores prominently winged, sometimes with a few ridges.

Flowering:

Not applicable - spore producing

Fruiting:

Not applicable - spore producing

Threats:

Not Threatened. A naturally Uncommon, Range Restricted endemic abundant on all the main Chatham Islands and surrounding islets and rock stacks

*Attribution:

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (3 February 2006). Description from Brownsey (1985)

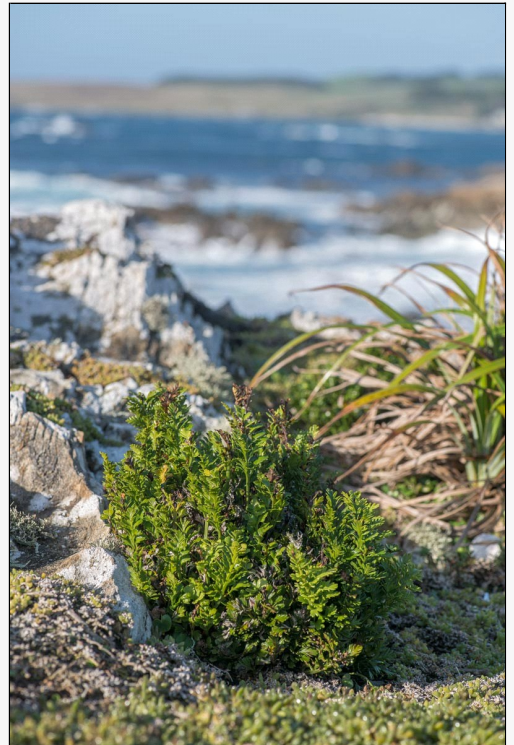
References and further reading:

Brownsey, P.J. 1985: *Asplenium chathamense* - a new fern species from the Chatham Islands, New Zealand *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 23: 135-140.

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=369



Caption: Kaingaroa, Chatham Island. Jun 2013.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



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