



Asplenium shuttleworthianum

Common Name(s):

Shuttleworths spleenwort

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Indigenous. New Zealand: Kermadec Islands group (Meyers, Raoul and McCauley Islands). A tropical species widespread in the Pacific and reaching its world southern limit on the Kermadec Islands.

Habitat:

Coastal to montane. In scrub, forest, or on shaded rock ledges. May be found either on the ground or as an epiphyte.

Features*:

Rhizome short, erect, bearing red-brown, linear attenuate scales. Stipes up to 150 mm long, green above, brown below, sparingly covered in small linear scales with long filiform apices. Laminae oblong to elliptic, 150-900 × 100-250 mm, yellow-green, coriaceous, 3- to 4-pinnate. Raches green, almost lacking scales, prominently grooved. Pinnae ovate to narrowly ovate, acuminate, stalked, up to 120 × 50 mm. Secondary pinnae linear to lanceolate, up to 15 × 2 mm, often pinnatifid. Ultimate segments linear, subacute, slightly expanded in the region of the sori. Sori near tips of ultimate segments, solitary, broad, submarginal, c.2 mm long.

Flowering:

Not applicable - spore producing

Fruiting:

Not applicable - spore producing

Threats:

A Naturally Uncommon, range-restricted endemic at its world southern limit. Although not that common on the Kermadec Islands, this is natural rather than induced and there are no known threats.

***Attribution:**

Description from Brownset (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: 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=370



Caption: November

Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Caption: November

Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth