



## *Cystopteris fragilis*

### **Common Name(s):**

brittle bladder fern

### **Current Threat Status (2009):**

Exotic

### **Distribution:**

Naturalised. New Zealand: North and South Islands (from Auckland south to Dunedin). Also Northern Hemisphere, South Africa and South America.

### **Habitat:**

Locally common in suitable sites along stream sides, ditches on damp stone walls, in muddy ground under willows (*Salix* spp.), and in shaded sites in grassland, along track sides and on roadside banks. In some areas it can be a very common fern on damp basalt and concrete walls bordering streams, ditches and channels

### **Features:**

Terrestrial or lithophytic, deciduous ferns. Rhizome short-creeping, scaly, scales thin, black, black-brown, glossy. Fronds tufted, crowded, 100-450 mm long. Stipes 50-150 mm long, scaly at base, glabrous above. Laminae 10-300 × 60-140 mm wide, yellow-green, ovate to narrowly ovate, membranous, very delicate, glabrous, with widely spaced pinnae. Primary pinnae 30-80 × 15-40 mm, ovate to deltoid, apices tapering. Secondary pinnae 10-20 × 5-10 mm, ovate to oblong, lower most deeply lobed and/or divided into tertiary pinnae, apices acute. Sori numerous, rounded, in one row either side of midrib set away from pinna margins, submarginal; indusium ovate, pale delicate, attached at broader end to a vein arching over sori.

### **Flowering:**

Not applicable - spore producing

### **Fruiting:**

Not applicable - spore producing

### **References and further reading:**

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

Rothfels, C.J.; Sundue, M.A.; Kuo, Li-Y.; Larsson, A.; Kato M.; Schuettpelz, E.; Pryer, K.M. 2012: A revised family-level classification for eupolypod II ferns (Polypodiidae: Polypodiales). *Taxon* 61(3): 515-533.

### **For more information, visit:**

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=3784](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=3784)



**Caption:** *Cystopteris fragilis*  
**Photographer:** John Smith-Dodsworth



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