

# Asplenium oblongifolium

## COMMON NAME

huruhuruwhenua, shining spleenwort

## SYNONYMS

*Asplenium lucidum* G.Forst.; *Asplenium lucidum* var. *paucifolium* Hook.; *Asplenium obtusatum* var. *integrifolium* Szyszyl. in Wawra; *Asplenium obtusatum* var. *lucidum* (G.Forst.) Hook. et Baker; *Asplenium durvillei* Mett. in Kuhn; *Tarachia lucida* (G.Forst.) Momose

## FAMILY

Aspleniaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Asplenium oblongifolium* Colenso

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Ferns

## NVS CODE

ASPOBL

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 144

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: Kermadec Islands, Manawatāwhi / Three Kings Islands, North Island, South Island (Marlborough sounds south to Hokitika and Banks Peninsula), and Chatham Islands.

## HABITAT

Coastal to montane (but mostly found within coastal and lowland areas). Occupying a diverse range of habitats from coastal cliffs and rock stacks to deep forest where it may be an epiphyte or grow on the ground.

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

UPL: Obligate Upland

Rarely is a hydrophyte, almost always in uplands (non-wetlands).



Sori. Wellington. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 14/04/1984, Licence: CC BY.



Wellington. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Licence: CC BY.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

**Rhizome** stout, often forming a hard woody mass above ground, bearing pale brown, shiny, ovate, acuminate scales up to 30 × 7 mm. **Stipes** 80–200 mm long, dark brown, stout, densely covered in narrow scales with very long filiform apices. **Laminae** oblong to elliptic, 180 mm – 1 m × 100–350 mm wide, dark green and glossy above, pinnate. **Rachis** brown below, green above, stout, slightly ridged, scaly. **Pinnae** 4–15 pairs, lanceolate to narrowly oblong or ovate, acuminate, crenate-serrate to ± entire, cuneate at base, 40–150 × 10–30 mm, frequently covered in very small hair-like scales on the underside. **Sori** up to 20 mm long, not reaching lamina edge.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Often confused with *Asplenium obtusatum* G.Forst. for which it is distinguished by the rachis and foliar scales which have very long hair-like apices, and by the pinnae which are firm (usually not thick and fleshy), glossy above, and acuminate to ± acute. Some forms of *A. oblongifolium* found on rock stacks along the west coast of the North Island (from about Kawhia south) would repay further investigation as these have distinctly dull, rather coriaceous, fleshy, fronds, and broader rachis and foliar scales, thus intergrading somewhat with *A. obtusatum*. These features are retained in cultivation.

## LIFE CYCLE

Minute spores are wind dispersed (Thorsen et al., 2009).

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown though often rather slow to establish. An attractive and popular plant widely used for mass plantings in shaded sites. An excellent pot plant. Be vigilant for scale and mealy bug infestations which are a bane to the cultivation of all New Zealand asplenias.

## ETYMOLOGY

**asplenium**: From the Greek a- 'without' and splene 'spleen', a northern hemisphere species, the black spleenwort (*Asplenium adiantum-nigrum*), was once believed to be a cure for diseases of the spleen.

**oblongifolium**: Oblong leaves

## WHERE TO BUY

Commonly available from plant and specialist native plant nurseries.

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 29 August 2007. Description from Brownsey (1977).

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Brownsey PJ. 1977. A taxonomic revision of the New Zealand species of *Asplenium*. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 15(1): 39–86. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0028825X.1977.10429618>.

Thorsen MJ, Dickinson KJM, Seddon PJ. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285–309. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ppees.2009.06.001>.

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/asplenium-oblongifolium/> (Date website was queried)

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/asplenium-oblongifolium/>