

Parablechnum minus

COMMON NAME

swamp kiokio

SYNONYMS

Lomaria capensis var. *minor* (R.Br.) Cheeseman; *Lomaria procera* var. *gracilis* Colenso; *Lomaria procera* var. *minor* (R.Br.) Hook.f.; *Lomaria minor* (R.Br.) Spreng.; *Stegania minor* R.Br.; *Blechnum capense* var. *minus* (R.Br.) Domin; *Blechnum minus* (R.Br.) Ettingsh.

FAMILY

Blechnaceae

AUTHORITY

Parablechnum minus (R.Br.) Gasper et Salino

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Ferns

NVS CODE

BLEMIN

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 56

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. New Zealand: North Island, South Island, Chatham Islands. Also Australia from where it was first described.

HABITAT

Coastal to lower montane in swampy ground within swamp forest, wetlands and along the margins of freshwater lakes, streams and rivers.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACW: Facultative Wetland

Usually is a hydrophyte but occasionally found in uplands (non-wetlands).



Matapaua Bay, Coromandel. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Matapaua Bay, Coromandel. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Rhizome creeping to erect. **Fron**ds dimorphic, 0.10–1.65 × 0.025–0.42 m. **Stipe** 20–330 mm long, stramineous to red-brown, darkening towards the base; scales cordate to linear, acuminate to subulate, entire to slightly dentate, brown to red-brown, often darker at the base of the scale. **Lamina** lanceolate to ovate, pinnate, with 3–37 pairs of pinnae; rachis and costae stramineous, brown to red-brown, scaly; scales linear, subulate, entire to somewhat dentate, stramineous to dark red-brown (rarely with broad cordate bases); sterile pinnae narrowly oblong with acute apices, 15–220 × 5–17 mm, shortly stalked towards lamina base, basiscopically adnate and sometimes winged at apex; margins finely serrate; basal pinnae auriculate; fertile pinnae 0.06–0.21 m long, 1.5–5.0 mm wide; lowest pinnae with expanded sterile segments at rachis.

SIMILAR TAXA

Parablechnum minus is superficially similar to the much larger *P. novae-zelandiae*. *Parablechnum minus* is most reliably distinguished from *P. novae-zelandiae* by the smaller, delicate fronds bearing fewer pairs of narrower, widely spaced pinnae with distinctly rounded ends, further, the scales of *P. minus* are uniformly pale brown, never black-spotted. Nevertheless Chambers & Farrant (1998a) did not accept *P. minus* (as *Blechnum minus*) for New Zealand attributing plants such as that described here to depauperate *P. novae-zelandiae*. While it is plausible that some New Zealand plants attributed to *Parablechnum minus* are stressed states of *P. novae-zelandiae*, the majority are not, and their condition is retained by cultivation and from specimens raised by spores.

FLOWERING

N.A.

FLOWER COLOURS

No flowers

FRUITING

N.A

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from spores, division of established plants and by transplants. Although it does best in full sun planted within a permanently damp soil, it also can be grown in shade and also on dry soils.

ETYMOLOGY

minus: Small; from the Latin minor

TAXONOMIC NOTES

Perrie et al. (2014) advocated for a broadened circumscription of Blechnaceae whereby a number of genera traditionally recognised as distinct from *Blechnum* were merged within it. However, this view has not met with universal acceptance (see Gasper et al. 2016) and does not seem to be followed worldwide (PPG 2016). From a New Zealand perspective the decision to merge *Doodia* in *Blechnum*, and rejection of *Diploblechnum* has not been universally accepted either e.g., Wilcox & Warden (2017), and as such it is considered appropriate to follow world opinion and accept the taxonomy of Gasper et al. (2016) and recommendations of the PPG (2016). See also comments by Pyner (2017).

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (19 September 2012). Description adapted Chambers & Farrant (1998b)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

- Chambers TC, Farrant PA. 1998a. The *Blechnum procerum* ("capense") (Blechnaceae) complex in New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 36(1): 1–19. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0028825X.1998.9512544>.
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- Pyner T. 2017. A new classification of *Blechnum*. British Pteridological Society. <https://ebps.org.uk/new-classification-blechnum/>. Accessed [INSERT DATE ACCESSED].
- Wilcox M, Warden J. 2017. Botany of Hillsborough coast bush reserves, Manukau Harbour, Auckland. *Auckland Botanical Society Journal* 72: 32–46.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/parablechnum-minus/>