

Pyrrosia elaeagnifolia

COMMON NAME

leather-leaf fern, pyrrosia

SYNONYMS

Pyrrosia serpens sensu Allan (1961); *Pyrrosia eleagnifolia* (Bory) Hovenkamp orth. var.

FAMILY

Polypodiaceae

AUTHORITY

Pyrrosia elaeagnifolia (Bory) Hovenkamp

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Ferns

NVS CODE

PYRELE

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 74

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, Stewart Island/Rakiura, Chatham Islands.

HABITAT

Coastal to montane. Common as an epiphyte on both indigenous and exotic trees and shrubs, also on rocks, cliffs faces and in urban areas on buildings, walls, bridges and fence posts.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

UPL: Obligate Upland

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



Peel Forest. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 04/05/1983, Licence: CC BY.



Kapiti Island. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 18/09/1992, Licence: CC BY.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Epiphytic or rupestral rhizomatous fern. **Rhizomes** long-creeping, often densely interwoven, young portions densely invested in red-brown to fawn coloured scales. **Stipes** reduced to phyllopodia borne in intervals along rhizome. **Fronds** coriaceous, fleshy to almost succulent, undivided, 30–200 × 5–20–(30) mm; adaxially yellow-green to dark green (rarely glaucescent), glabrescent, initially sparsely covered in long straight to somewhat flexuous pale-yellow to translucent caducous hairs; abaxially densely covered in fawn or white-coloured stellate hairs, aside from midrib, veins not evident on either surface; lamina variable; sterile examples broadly ovate, rhomboidal, suborbicular, to elliptic (very rarely linear); fertile linear, linear-lanceolate to suborbicular. **Sori** without indusia, ovoid, ellipsoid to rounded, in 2–3–(4) irregular rows (rarely more) either side of midrib and set away from frond margins. **Spores** yellow.

SIMILAR TAXA

None

FLOWERING

N.A.

FLOWER COLOURS

No flowers

FRUITING

N.A.

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Very easily grown. Does best in dry, sunny situations. An excellent plant for rockeries, stone walls and in pots. This species often self establishes into gardens within urban areas as it is commonly found growing on the trunks of introduced trees and shrubs in urban parks, street avenues and urban indigenous forest remnants.

ETYMOLOGY

pyrrosia: Flame coloured; from the Greek purros; the colour of the hairs on its leaves

elaeagnifolia: Eleagnus leaf

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 9 April 2011. Description by P.J. de Lange.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/pyrrosia-elaeagnifolia/>