



Flora of Australia

Asplenium hookerianum Colenso

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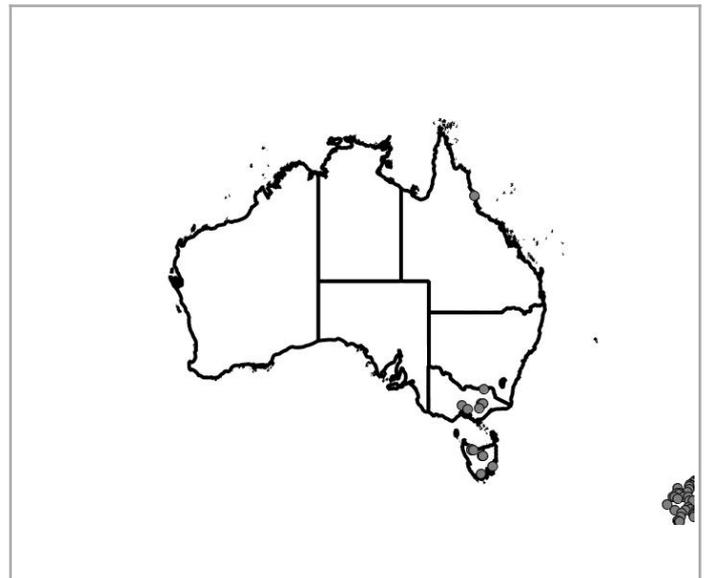
Asplenium hookerianum Colenso

- Brownsey, P.J. in McCarthy, P.M. (ed.) (1998), Aspleniaceae. *Flora of Australia* 48

P.J.Brownsey

Ferns with semi-erect or spreading fronds. Rhizome erect, scaly. Stipe and rachis brown on underside, green above, abundantly scaly; stipe 4-9 cm long, c. 5 mm diam. Lamina 2-pinnate at base, narrowly elliptic, 5-12 cm long, 1.8-3 cm wide, dark green, thin, abundantly scaly. Primary pinnae in 7-10 pairs, ovate to narrowly ovate; apices acute to obtuse, long-stalked; longest pinnae below middle, 1-2.8 cm long, 6-13 mm wide. Secondary pinnae elliptic to broadly elliptic; bases sessile or shortly stalked; margins entire; apices obtuse and toothed; longest pinnae 4-9 mm long, 2-5 mm wide. Sori to 2 mm long. Perisporos dark with fimbriate wings and tuberculate or ribbed lacunae; exospores $32.4 \times 25.1 \mu\text{m}$ (mean).

Distribution: A very rare fern in Australia; known only from a few collections from the Mt Kosciuszko region, N.S.W., eastern Vic., and in the valleys of the Franklin and Hellyer Rivers, Tas.; also common in New Zealand.



Habitat: In N.S.W. and Vic., growing among rocks or on rock ledges; in Tas., found on wet rock walls in dark forest in valleys.

Representative Herbarium Specimens: Vic.: Bryces Gorge, Snowy Ra., 20 Jan. 1971, P.Turner (MEL). Tas.: Hellyer Gorge, 3 Apr. 1986, M.Garrett (WELT).

Notes: No N.S.W. specimens have been seen but the fern has been reliably reported from there (P.G.Wilson in G.J.Harden (ed.), *Fl. New South Wales* 1: 55, 1990). The very few Australian collections of this species all have rather broad, rounded ultimate segments. New Zealand material is much more polymorphic, but fronds with very finely divided ultimate segments, sometimes known as var. *colensoi* (Colenso) T.Moore, have not been collected in Australia.

Illustrations: D.L.Jones & S.C.Clemesha, *Austral. Ferns & Fern Allies* 2nd edn, 86, fig. 72 (1981); B.D.Duncan & G.Isaac, *Ferns & Allied Pl. Victoria, Tasmania & S. Australia* 169, figs 17.6, 17.7 (1986); P.J.Brownsey & J.C.Smith-Dodsworth, *New Zealand Ferns & Allied Pl.* 110, fig. 135, pl. 25A (1989).

Source: Data derived from *Flora of Australia* Volume 48 (1998), a product of ABRS, ©Commonwealth of Australia

Conservation Status

VIC - null

TAS - Endangered

AUS - Vulnerable

Nomenclature

Brownsey, P.J. in McCarthy, P.M. (ed.) (1998), Aspleniaceae. *Flora of Australia* 48 : 308, Fig. 109, Map 284

nomenclatural synonym: *Asplenium bulbiferum* var. *hookeriana* (Colenso) Rodway: 308

Images

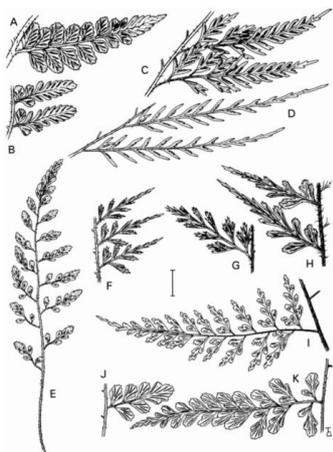


Fig. 1: '*Asplenium hookerianum*' by T.Galloway. (© Commonwealth of Australia)



