

Asplenium polyodon Sickle Spleenwort

Taxonomy

Asplenium polyodon (G.Forst.)

Description

The once pinnate frond with doubly toothed, lanceolate, long-tapering pinnae is distinctive, as is its completely dark brown stipe and rachis.

Rhizome short, stout, covered with brown scales. Fronds tufted, erect or pendent, 30–100 cm long, stiff. Stipe shorter than lamina, dark brown, grooved; scales similar to those of rhizome, numerous. Lamina narrowly elliptic to oblong-lanceolate, 1-pinnate, dark green, glossy above, paler and dull beneath; rachis grooved, dark brown, with scattered scales. Pinnae narrowly triangular, often slightly curved, 3–15 cm long, tapering gradually from base to tip, thickened basal edge of primary pinnae decurrent on raised edge of rachis; margins doubly and often deeply toothed; veins prominent on undersurface, forked. Sori linear-oblong, on veins, curved away from midrib; indusium linear-oblong, membranous (VicFlora 2021).

Current conservation status

Categorised as 'Presumed extinct in Victoria' in the 2014 Advisory list of rare or threatened plants in Victoria (DEPI 2014).

Proposed conservation status

Extinct (EX) in Victoria.

Criteria for Extinct status

As per Schedule 1 of the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Regulations 2020, the primary criterion for the category of threat 'extinct' is met if–

(a) exhaustive surveys throughout the taxon's historic range fail to record an individual member of the taxon; and

(b) those surveys were conducted over a time frame appropriate to the taxon's life cycle and life form, in known or expected habitat and at appropriate times (diurnal, seasonal, annual).

Historical records of the species were retrieved from the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas. A 50km buffer was placed around each location, and all surveys of appropriate surveying method to date were retrieved. In total, 2,390 appropriate surveys have taken place within the historic range with no records of *A. polyodon* since 1992.

Victorian Biodiversity Atlas search results

Number of known historical locations	1
Last known record	1992
Total recorded surveys to date within 50km of all historical locations	2,390



Asplenium polyodon Sickle Spleenwort

Survey methods searched

External data, FIS Grid data, Monitoring, Quadrat

Historical distribution

The taxon has been reported once in Victoria, from 3 km south-east of Genoa in 1940. The single plant discovered has since died and the taxon is presumed to be extinct in Victoria. It is also known from Qld, NSW, New Zealand, Asia and Pacific islands (VicFlora 2021).

References

DEPI (2014) *Advisory list of rare or threatened plants in Victoria - 2014*. Department of Environment and Primary Industries, Melbourne. Retrieved from:

https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0021/50448/Advisory-List-of-Rare-or-Threatened-Plants-in-Victoria-2014.pdf

VicFlora (2021). Flora of Victoria, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria: *Asplenium polyodon*. Retrieved from:

<https://vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au/flora/taxon/e81a450b-b168-4eb0-82e2-759ddffb45f5>