

# The New Zealand Epiphyte Network

## Basic Epiphyte & Vine ID Guide 2013

Information is from NZPCN, NZ Flora Series, and personal observations.

All photos by Catherine Kirby unless otherwise stated

PLEASE NOTE: this is not an exhaustive list. Any queries: [nzepiphytenetwork@gmail.com](mailto:nzepiphytenetwork@gmail.com)

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### Ferns

#### *Asplenium flaccidum*

- thick fronds
- hangs pendent from branches/forks
- clumps of spores at 45° angle to midrib
- raised main vein (midrib)
- no stalk (stipe)



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#### *Asplenium oblongifolium*

- large glossy fronds
- clumps of spores at 45° angle to midrib
- almost oblong shaped pinnae



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#### *Asplenium polyodon*

- sickle shaped leaves
- double-toothed edges
- thin, dark brown stalks (stipes)
- droopy, feathery appearance



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*Blechnum filiforme*

- small pinnae at base of tree, increasing in size further up the trunk
- climbing rhizome
- fertile fronds on mature plant are different to sterile fronds
- harsh, scratchy feel
- small teeth



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*Cardiomanes reniforme*

- kidney fern - kidney shaped leaves
- glossy, bright green
- shrivels when dry



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*Huperzia varia*

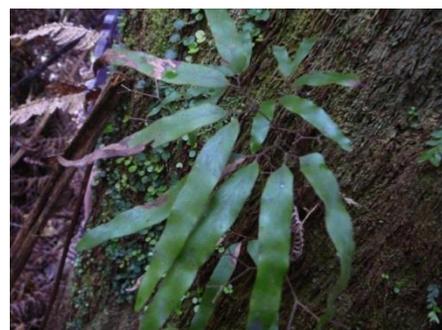
- hanging curtain of fronds that can be variable in form
- sometimes looks like rimu leaves



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*Lygodium articulatum*

- main stem distinctly splits into two
- forms dense curtains
- tough, wiry



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*Microsorium pustulatum*

- hound's tongue
- thick, bluish, scaly rhizomes
- distinctive venation and vein islets
- irregularly lobed



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*Microsorium scandens*

- juvenile leaves thin and strappy
- mature leaves more lobed
- narrower leaves than *M. pustulatum*
- climbs from ground



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*Pyrrhosia eleagnifolia*

- leather-leaf fern
- thick, fleshy fronds
- densely hairy on underside of frond
- brown spore clusters (sori) irregularly spaced on underside of fertile fronds



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*Rumohra adiantiformis*

- plastic-looking fronds
- scaly rhizomes
- large black spore clusters (sori)
- veins dark and grooved
- pinnae toothed



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*Tmesipteris lanceolata*

- fork fern
- spore capsules (synangia) are testiculate
- fronds arranged in two vertical rows on opposite sides of stem

Image: Jeremy Rolfe



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*Tmesipteris tannensis*

- fork fern
- spore capsules (synangia) are diamond shaped (biconic)
- fronds arranged in two vertical rows on opposite sides of stem



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*Arthropteris tenella*

- looks similar to *Asplenium oblongifolium* but is a climber
- tapering frond segments (pinnae)
- brown hairy rhizome (root-like stem)



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## Vines and lianes

*Clematis paniculata*

- leaves split into 3 sections (trifoliate)
- dark green leathery leaves
- large white flowers



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*Metrosideros diffusa*

- climber with dark reddish-brown roots
- small, pointed, opposite leaves
- vein borders the leaf margin on underside



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*Metrosideros fulgens*

- climber with dark reddish-brown roots
- larger than *M. diffusa* or *M. perforata*
- may have gland dots or bordering vein but not as distinctly *M. diffusa* or *M. perforata*



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*Metrosideros perforata*

- climber with dark reddish-brown roots
- small, rounded, opposite leaves
- numerous dots on underside



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*Muehlenbeckia australis*

- twining stem climber with many tangled branches
- juvenile leaves often fiddle shaped
- leaves lost in winter



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*Ripogonum scandens*

- Supplejack - woody vine
- black, tangled stems
- leaves leathery and pointed



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*Rubus* species

- bush lawyer
- linear, pointed leaves
- hooks present on leaves and stems



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## Nests

*Astelia solandri*

- thin, drooping leaves
- whitish bases
- often silvery undersides



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*Collospermum hastatum*

- v-shaped leaf blades
- thick, arching leaves
- leaves dull green-yellow
- blackish leaf bases
- fan-like arrangement of leaves
- dead foliage hanging in equal proportion to live mass



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*Collospermum microspermum*

- similar but smaller than *C. hastatum*
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## Orchids:

### *Earina autumnalis*

- leaves 4-10cm long
- leaves leathery, curved downwards and twisted
- v-shaped leaf profile



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### *Earina mucronata*

- bamboo orchid - leaves have sheaths like bamboo
- can have masses of pointed leaves, 10-15 cm long
- delicate, hanging leaves
- flat leaf profile



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### *Ichthyostomum pygmaeum*

- pygmy orchid – a mat of single leaves on top of small bulbs
- leaves 1.5 mm long
- bulb 3-5 mm diameter, bright green



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### *Drymoanthus adversus*

- erect, sitting on top of bark
- distinctive white, fleshy roots
- thick leaves



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*Winika cunninghamii*

- wiry mass, often grows in large clumps
- short leaves 3-5 cm long



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## Shrubs

*Brachglottis kirkii* var. *kirkii*

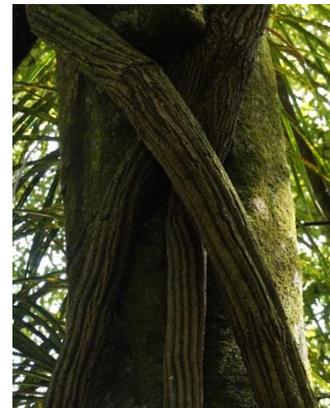
- fleshy diamond shaped leaves
- reddish stems common



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*Griselinia lucida*

- thick grooved root
- asymmetrical leaf base
- large bright green glossy leaves



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*Pittosporum cornifolium*

- whorled leaves
- pointed leaf tips
- usually hanging from nest epiphytes



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*Pittosporum kirkii*

- thicker, narrower leaves than *P. cornifolium*, rounded tips
- more erect growth
- purple-reddish stems



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## Succulents

*Peperomia*

- small, round, succulent leaves
- often forms mats in tree forks

