

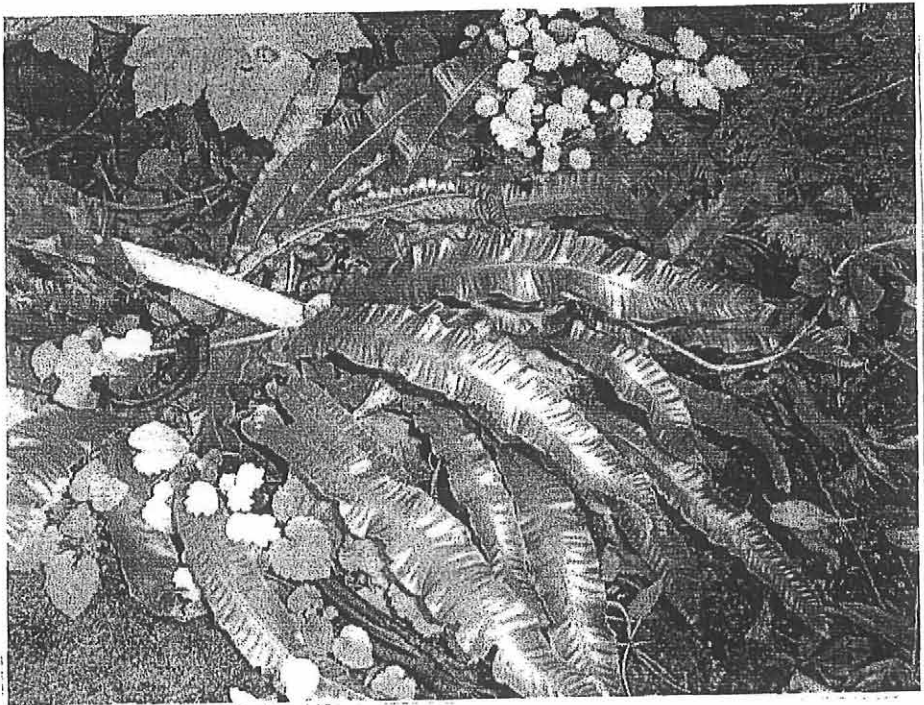
Introduced ferns in Southland.

Lloyd Esler

Southland has got only a few introduced pteridophytes. The best place to find them is in the rock garden by the duckpond in Queens Park Invercargill. **Hart's tongue** *Phyllitis scolopendrium* is common there, possibly originating from an early planting. It thrives on the limestone boulders in the garden but I haven't found it elsewhere in Southland. *Pteris cretica* is rare, far south of its expected limit and almost certainly planted although it is a weed in the nearby hothouses. A few plants survive in the shelter of other vegetation on a wet rock wall. *Cystopteris fragilis* is common along the waterways in the rock garden, obviously needing a very moist environment.

Male fern *Dryopteris filix-mas* is widespread and sometimes abundant in the vicinity of Invercargill. It is a minor garden weed but seems to thrive best in pine plantations, particularly in the Sandy Point Domain. I'm not sure how it is distributed outside Invercargill but I recently found a specimen growing near the Big Totara in the Motu Bush on the west side of the Waiiau River. The last species is *Selaginella kraussiana* (spike moss) a common glasshouse weed and locally common on Stewart Island. A small patch in my garden has not survived my eradication campaign but it took two doses of Roundup.

Introduced ferns and fern allies,: **Hart's tongue**, *Phyllitis scolopendrium*;



Clockwise from top: *Pteris cretica*; Brittle bladder fern, Spike moss, *Selaginella kraussiana*, *Cystopteris fragilis*; Photos, - Lloyd Esler 2005, Drawing - T Galloway, in: *NZ Ferns and Allied Plants*, Brownsey & Smith-Dodsworth, 1989.



Fig. 28 *Selaginella kraussiana*.
A creeping stems with cones and long aerial roots; B upper surfaces of branches showing leaves of two sizes; C cone.

