

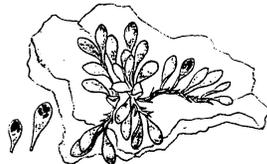
FERNS OF THE PORT HILLS

John Thompson¹

After enjoying John Lovis' talk on the ferns of the Port Hills I mentioned to him that in 1984 I had found another fern, not previously recorded from the Port Hills, *Grammitis poeppigiana*. After checking my voucher specimen and agreeing with my naming he urged me to write an account of the finding for the Journal. Here it is.

On Wednesday October 24th 1984, Ross Elder, Phyllis and I visited Kennedys Bush area looking for native orchids. We found many *Pterostylis graminea* and *Pterostylis areolata*. After lunch we climbed through a hole in the fence leading to a paddock in the last gully before Gibraltar. The steep ground was in places covered with dense patches of *Helichrysum bellidioides*. On scrambling around one of these patches hoping to find plants of *Corybas macranthus* I was delighted to see a small plant of *Grammitis poeppigiana*. I first discovered *Grammitis poeppigiana* many years ago above Dansey Pass, when it was known as *Grammitis punila*. Its name was later changed to *Grammitis armstrongii* and eventually to *Grammitis poeppigiana*. It is a mat forming plant with stiff fronds 0.5-3.0 x 0.2-0.4 cm, and indistinct stipes. The sori are in 1-5 pairs confined to the frond apices.

This fern has been found in North, South, Stewart, Campbell and Auckland Islands, Australia, Macquarie Island, Chile, Argentina, Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Tristan de Cunha. In New Zealand it is common in mountain areas from East Cape and Mt Egmont to the sub-antarctic, where it occurs in sub-alpine or alpine areas but descending to lower levels in the far south. I have found this fern at three other sites on Banks Peninsula.



Grammitis poeppigiana. From Wilson, H.D. 1982. *Field Guide to Stewart Island Plants*, Field Guide Publications.

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