

FERNS OF OTAMAHUA/QUAIL ISLAND

COLIN BURROWS

Despite its summer-dry environment Otamahua has a moderate-sized fern flora. Some of the species occur very locally, however – in some cases they are known from one location only. It is likely that some indigenous fern introductions will be made as the ecological restoration of the island continues. Also, more ferns will probably introduce themselves.

Indigenous Species	Locations/Habitats	Notes
<i>Asplenium flabellifolium</i>	Common, W, S, shady banks, rock	
<i>A. richardii</i>	W, S, rock	
<i>A. terrestre</i>	S, rock	One location
<i>Blechnum fluviatile</i>	S, shaded basalt	One location
<i>B. penna marina</i>	S, shaded basalt	
<i>Cheilanthes humilis</i>	Summit plateau, basalt rock pavements	
<i>Hypolepis ambigua</i>	S, in bracken	One location, recent self introduction
<i>Paesia scaberula</i>	Summit plateau, on stump	One location, recent self introduction
<i>Pellaea rotundifolia</i>	W, S, basalt	
<i>Polystichum richardii</i>	Widespread S, under trees, on loess or rock	Appears drought tolerant
<i>Pteridium esculentum</i>	S, summit plateau, loess	
<i>Pyrrrosia eleagnifolia</i>	W, S, N, basalt	
Introduced Species		
<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>	Scattered shaded sites, loess	Self-introduced; known colonies removed
<i>Polypodium vulgare</i>	SE, under trees	Self-introduced; being removed

One further species, *Asplenium oblongifolium*, recorded by Brian Molloy in 1976, has not been seen lately.

REFERENCE

Brownsey, P.J., Smith-Dodsworth, J.C. 1989. *New Zealand Ferns and Allied Plants*. David Bateman, Auckland.