

kaempferi Siebold. var. *australis*, China, and *S. kaempferi* var. *kaempferi*, Japan; and *B. kurzii* (J. D. Hook.) Corner, a scandent shrub of SE Asia and China.

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Bear's-foot fern or silver hare's-foot (*Davallia griffithiana* Hook.) in Auckland

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The genus *Davallia* of the family Davalliaceae comprises some 29 species of tropical and subtropical ferns. They occur in Asia from the Himalayas to Japan, Australia, the Pacific, Africa/Madagascar, and one species, *Davallia canariensis* (L.) Sm., occurs in NW Africa/Macaronesia/SW-Europe.

Davallia griffithiana was recorded wild on a kahikatea tree in Matangi Road near Hamilton (de Lange 1987; Webb *et al.*, 1995; Brownsey & Smith-Dodsworth 2000). The plant was originally identified as being part of the Polynesian davallia (*Davallia feejeensis*) complex (now *Davallia solida* (Forst.) Sw. and its varieties), but later determined to be *D. griffithiana*.

On 23 May 2003 I found a thriving colony of this fern on a scoria wall in Mt Albert Road, Auckland (AK 283605). It had originated from a hanging basket from whence it spread to colonise the wall (Figure 1).

As stated by Webb *et al.* (1995) and Brownsey & Smith-Dodsworth (2000), *Davallia griffithiana* differs from the native *D. tasmanii*, including subsp. *crispata* (von Konrat *et al.* 1999), by the rhizome scales bearing teeth but lacking multicellular hairs, and by

the indusia being rounded at their apices and attached along 2/3 the length of their sides.

Davallia griffithiana can be seen in cultivation in the Cool House at the Wintergarden, Auckland Domain.



Figure 1. *Davallia griffithiana* in Mt Albert.

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