

Austrolycopodium fastigiatum

COMMON NAME

alpine clubmoss, mountain clubmoss

SYNONYMS

Lycopodium fastigiatum R.Br.; *Lycopodium clavatum* var. *fastigiatum* (R.Br.) Benth.; *Lycopodium curvifolium* Colenso; *Lycopodium decurrens* Colenso; *Lycopodium scopulosum* Colenso; *Austrolycopodium fastigiatum* (R.Br.) Holub; *Lycopodium arcitenentis* Herter; *Lycopodium cochinchense* Herter ex Nessel

FAMILY

Lycopodiaceae

AUTHORITY

Austrolycopodium fastigiatum (R.Br.) Holub

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lycophytes (clubmosses, selaginella, quillworts)

NVS CODE

LYCFAS

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 60

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. New Zealand: North Island (from Te Moehau and Mt Pirongia south), South Island and Stewart Island/Rakiura, Chatham Islands, Antipodes Islands, Campbell Island/Motu Ihupuku, and Auckland Islands. Also Australia.

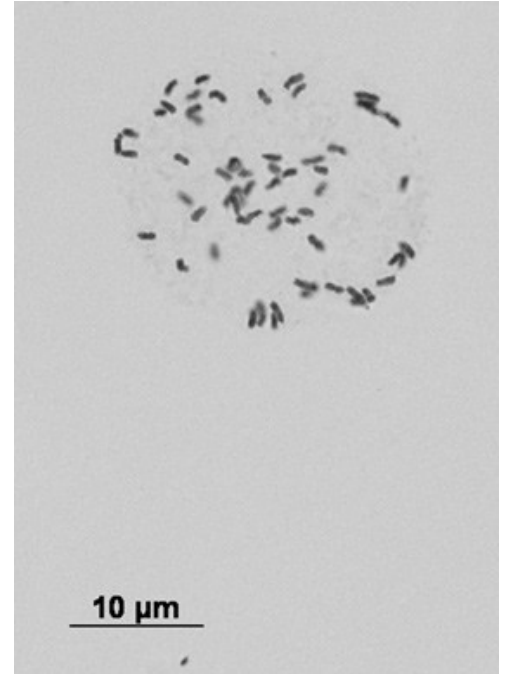
HABITAT

Coastal to alpine (in northern part of North Island range strictly montane) in frost flats, subalpine and geothermal scrub, alpine herbfield, grassland and peat bogs.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FAC: Facultative

Commonly occurs as either a hydrophyte or non-hydrophyte (non-wetlands).



In cult. Chromosomes 2n = 60. Oct 2008.
Photographer: Brian G. Murray, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Sabine River. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Rhizome mostly buried, creeping, bearing scattered, appressed scale-leave. **Aerial branches** erect (occasionally prostrate with branchlets upturned), rigid 30–400 mm tall, much-branched. **Leaves** spirally arranged, imbricate, decurrent, 3–5 × 0.6–1.0 mm, linear to linear-lanceolate, incurved, green, yellow-green or orange (especially when in exposed situations). **Strobili** erect, terminal, projecting above the foliage, 20–70–(100) mm long, 1–3 aggregated on a common peduncle with widely scattered appressed scale leaves. **Sporophylls** imbricate, peltate, lanceolate, pale to dark brown or somewhat orange, with paler membranous margins. (Description adapted from Chinnock (1998) and Brownsey & Smith-Dodsworth (2000)).

SIMILAR TAXA

A very distinctive species that is likely to be confused only with *Pseudolycopodium densum* which is a more northerly occurring species inhabiting lower elevations and which differs from *Austrolycopodium fastigiatum* by the leaves of fertile aerial stems being tightly appressed, and by the sessile (i.e. without stalks) strobili.

FLOWERING

N.A.

FLOWER COLOURS

No flowers

FRUITING

N.A.

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult. Should not be removed from the wild.

ETYMOLOGY

fastigiatum: Fastigate; from the Latin fastigium; branches lying close together, parallel and erect

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 20 March 2011. Description adapted from Chinnock (1998) and Brownsey & Smith-Dodsworth (2000).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Brownsey PJ, Smith-Dodsworth JC. 2000. New Zealand Ferns and Allied Plants. David Bateman, Auckland, NZ. 168 p.

Chinnock RJ. 1998. Lycopodiaceae. *Flora of Australia 48, Ferns Gymnosperms and allied groups*: 66–85. ABRIS/CSIRO Victoria, Australia.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/austrolycopodium-fastigiatum/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/austrolycopodium-fastigiatum/>