

# Hymenophyllum villosum

## COMMON NAME

hairy filmy fern

## SYNONYMS

Mecodium villosum (Colenso) Copel.

## FAMILY

Hymenophyllaceae

## AUTHORITY

Hymenophyllum villosum Colenso

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Ferns

## NVS CODE

HYMVIL

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 72

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island, South Island, Stewart Island/Rakiura, Chatham Islands, Campbell Island/Motu Ihupuku, Auckland Islands. From Te Moehau and Mt Pirongia south becoming more common in the southern North Island. Widespread through the remaining islands.

## HABITAT

Montane to subalpine in closed forest and subalpine scrub. Usually epiphytic, occasionally on rotting logs, mossy hummocks, rocks and cliff faces.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Terrestrial or epiphytic fern forming dense patches on suitable substrates. **Rhizomes** long-creeping, slender. Frond dark green, strongly aromatic, scent somewhat sanguinely metallic (especially when dry). **Stipes** 20–90 mm long, slender; stipes, rachises and laminae copiously covered in hairs, narrowly winged for most of length, black, wing often zig-zagged in upper portion. **Laminae** 50–180–(240) × 20–100 mm, narrowly ovate, elliptic to narrowly elliptic-deltoid, 3–4-pinnate, glabrescent. **Ultimate segments** 0.25–0.75 mm wide, oblong, margins entire though usually undulose especially toward distal portion of frond. **Sori** on short branches in distal portion of frond, many borne on each primary pinna. **Indusium** narrowly ovoid to ellipsoid, abaxially smooth; indusial flaps entire; receptacle included. (Description adapted from Brownsey & Smith-Dodsworth (2000)).



Mt Te Moehau. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



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## SIMILAR TAXA

Closely allied to *Hymenophyllum sanguinolentum* from which it differs by its smaller overall dimensions, more finely divided fronds with narrower ultimate segments; by the copiously hairy stipes, rachises and laminae; and by the abaxially smooth rather than crested surfaces of the indusia. In some parts of its range it can be found growing syntopically with *Hymenophyllum sanguinolentum*, whilst in other locations, like the Chatham Islands it grows in apparent isolation from *H. sanguinolentum* which is not known there.

## LIFE CYCLE

Minute spores are wind dispersed (Thorsen et al., 2009).

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult—should not be removed from the wild

## ETYMOLOGY

**hymenophyllum**: Membranous leaf, from the Greek humen and phullon

## WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (21 April 2011). Description adapted from 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.

Thorsen MJ, Dickinson KJM, Seddon PJ. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285–309. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ppees.2009.06.001>.

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Hymenophyllum villosum* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.

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

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/hymenophyllum-villosum/>