

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

2012 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

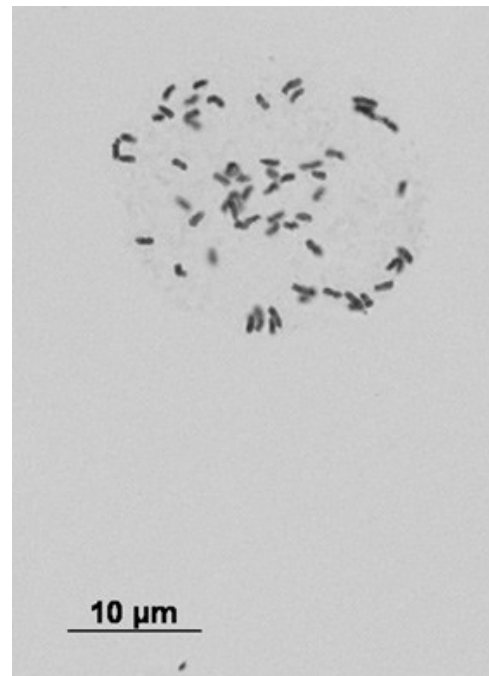
2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. New Zealand: North, South, Stewart, Chatham, Antipodes, Campbell and Auckland Islands (from Te Moehau and Mt Pirongia south). 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.



In cult. Chromosomes 2n = 60. Oct 2008.
Photographer: Brian Murray



Sabine River. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth

FEATURES

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 mm long. 0.6-1.0 mm wide, 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 altitudes 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, P.J.; Smith-Dodsworth, J.C. 2000: New Zealand Ferns and Allied Plants. Auckland, David Bateman
Chinnock, R.J. 1998: Lycopodiaceae. Flora of Australia 48: 66-85.

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/>