

Botrychium biforme

COMMON NAME

fine-leaved parsley fern

SYNONYMS

Botrychium australe var. *millefolium* (Milde) Prantl; *Botrychium cicutarium* var. *dissectum* Hook.f.; *Botrychium ternatum* var. *dissectum* G.M.Thomson; *Botrychium dissectum* sensu J.B.Armstr.; *Sceptridium biforme* (Colenso) Lyon;

FAMILY

Ophioglossaceae

AUTHORITY

Botrychium biforme Colenso

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Ferns

NVS CODE

BOTBIF

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 90

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North and South Islands, from Mt Pirongia south often sporadic but can be locally common

HABITAT

Lowland to alpine. Preferring open ground, short and tall tussock grassland, forest clearings, shrubland, river flats, frsot flats, reverting pasture and seasonally flooded ground. It is often found in deeply shaded sites within tall forest, or under dense thickets of grey scrub or frost flat vegetation.

FEATURES

Stout, fleshy reddish green (bronze) to green plants. Roots thick, fleshy, not ridged or contracted. Sterile laminae 1(-2) stalked, broadly ovate or 5-angled, divided 5-8 times, 30-250 x 30-150 mm, ultimate segments acute, 0.05-0.1 mm wide. Fertile laminae 1(-2) borne on a narrower but longer stalk, fertile portion shorter and narrower than sterile laminae, divided 3-5-times, bearing numerous, spherical, yellow-brown sporangia up to c.10 mm diam.



Botrychium biforme. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Otakaha Stream, Palliser Bay. Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe

SIMILAR TAXA

Botrychium australe R.Br. from which *B. biforme* differs by the absence of ridged, contractile roots, and by the more finely divided sterile fronds whose ultimate segments are 0.1-1 mm wide. *B. biforme* may be found growing intermixed with *B. australe*.

FLOWERING

Not applicable - spore producing

FLOWER COLOURS

No flowers

FRUITING

Not applicable - spore producing

LIFE CYCLE

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult. Should not be removed from the wild

THREATS

Not Threatened - however often local and sporadic in its occurrences. This species seems more tolerant of heavily shaded situations and forested habitats than *B. australe*, and there does not appear to be any suggestion of a decline happening within any part of its range.

ETYMOLOGY

botrychium: Bunch of grapes; from the Greek botrus; grape like spore clusters

biforme: Two forms or shapes of leaves, from the Latin bi and formis

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet by P.J. de Lange 6 June 2005. Description from Brownsey & Smith-Dodsworth (2000).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Brownsey, P.J.; Smith-Dodsworth, J.C. 2000: New Zealand ferns and allied plants. David Bateman Ltd, Auckland

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora.

Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics 11: 285-309

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/botrychium-biforme/>