

Dicksonia lanata subsp. hispida

COMMON NAMES

stumpy tree fern

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DPS, DPT

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Ferns

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Small tree fern with a short trunk and pale brown-stalked dark-green stiff leaves to 2 m long inhabiting kauri forests. Trunk to 2 m tall, sparsely covered by old leaves. Leaf stems covered in small hairs (lens needed). Sporangia in small capsules at the edge of fronds undersides.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

For a detailed description see [Flora of New Zealand](#)

SIMILAR TAXA

Dicksonia lanata subsp. *lanata* from which it is most easily distinguished by the presence of a small trunk which may be up to 2 m tall. However, the fronds are also usually dark green rather than glaucous green. There are other minor cryptic characters which also separate the two varieties.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island (Te Pahi south to the Bombay Hills and Tararu Valley, Coromandel Peninsula).

HABITAT

Virtually confined to kauri (*Agathis australis*) forest where it is often the characteristic understorey fern, growing with *Astelia trinervia* and *Gahnia xanthocarpa*. Also occurs in cloud forest in some of the western ranges of Northland.

GENUS

Dicksonia

FAMILY

Dicksoniaceae

AUTHORITY

Dicksonia lanata subsp. *hispida* (Colenso) Perrie et Brownsey

SYNONYMS

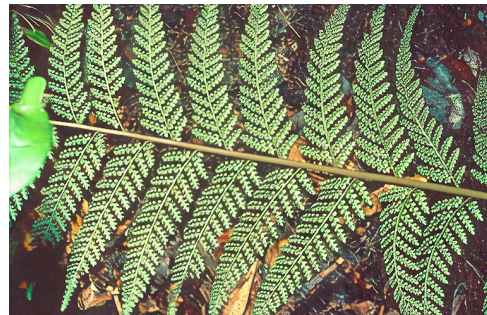
Dicksonia lanata var. *hispida* Colenso

TAXONOMIC NOTES

Dicksonia lanata subsp. *hispida* is probably worthy of species rank. In the upper Tararu Valley, Coromandel Peninsula both subspecies are virtually sympatric.

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes



Puketi forest, August. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Puketi forest, August. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from spores. Can be grown from rooted pieces but rather slow. Prefers a deep, cool soil enriched with leaf litter. Slow to establish.

ETYMOLOGY

dicksonia: After James Dickson (1738-1822), British botanist and nurseryman

lanata: Woolly

hispida: Roughly hairy

NVS CODE

DICLSH

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 130

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Auckland: 2025 | Regionally At Risk – Regionally Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DPS, DPT, PD, RR Help

The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Auckland conservation status information is sourced from the [“Conservation status of vascular plant species in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland”](#) Simpkins E et al. (2025) report.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/dicksonia-lanata-subsp-hispida/>

PDF DATE

25 May 2026