

# Diphasium scariosum

## COMMON NAME

creeping clubmoss

## SYNONYMS

*Lycopodium scariosum* G.Forst.; *Lycopodium scariosum* var. *decurrens* (R.Br.) Hook.; *Lycopodium distans* Colenso; *Lycopodium lessonianum* A.Rich.; *Stachygynandrum scariosum* (G.Forst.) P.Beauv.; *Diphasium decurrens* (R.Br.) Holub; *Lycopodium decurrens* R.Br.

## FAMILY

Lycopodiaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Diphasium scariosum* (G.Forst.) Rothm.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

No

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lycophytes (clubmosses, selaginella, quillworts)

## NVS CODE

LYCSCA

## 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 near Mangamuka south but scarce in Northland), South Island, Stewart Island/Rakiura, Chatham Islands, Antipodes Islands, Auckland Islands, Campbell Island/Motu Ihupuku. Also Australia, Philipines, Borneo and New Guinea.

## HABITAT

Coastal to subalpine (mostly montane in the northern North island). A species of open habitats such as mossy roadside banks, stream banks, shrubland, and peaty ground (rarely restiad bog).



Northern Remutaka Range. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 10/01/2004, Licence: CC BY.



Tararua Forest Park. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 19/06/2005, Licence: CC BY.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Main stems prostrate, creeping to 1 m or more long, with scattered appressed scale-like leaves. **Branchlets** spreading to ascending (up to 0.5 m tall), dorsiventral, much-branched. **Sterile leaves** dimorphic, yellowish-green; upper leaves in 2 alternating rows flattened in 1 plane, firm to rigid, decurrent, 3–5 mm long × 1.0–1.5 mm wide ovate to lanceolate often falcate; leaves of undersurface in 2 rows, up to 0.2 mm long, scale-like, with translucent membranous obtuse usually dilated tips. **Strobili** erect, terminal, 10–50 mm long, orange-brown, mostly solitary, rarely paired. **Sporophylls** imbricate, subpeltate, ovate-saggitate, stramineous, with translucent membranous tips. (Description adapted from Chinnock (1998) and Brownsey & Smith-Dodsworth (2000)).

## SIMILAR TAXA

The yellow-green colour, flattened leaves and mostly solitary, stalked strobili serve to distinguish this species from all other representatives of the family in New Zealand. *Diphasium scariosum* is perhaps most similar to reduced states of *Pseudodiphasium volubile* from which it differs by the smaller stem and branch leaves being confined to the lower surface of stems and by the erect, solitary (rarely paired) rather than clustered and pendulous strobili.

## FLOWERING

N.A.

## FLOWER COLOURS

No flowers

## FRUITING

N.A.

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult. Should not be removed from the wild.

## ETYMOLOGY

**scariosum**: Thin and dry; from the Latin scariosus; general appearance

## 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. ABRS/CSIRO Victoria, Australia.

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Diphasium scariosum* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/diphasium-scariosum/> (Date website was queried)

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/diphasium-scariosum/>