

Hymenophyllum armstrongii

COMMON NAME

filmy fern

SYNONYMS

Craspedophyllum armstrongii (Baker) Copel.; *Hymenophyllum cheesemanii* var. *armstrongii* (Baker) Cheeseman; *Hymenophyllum melanocheilos* Colenso; *Microtrichomanes armstrongii* (Baker) Copel.; *Trichomanes armstrongii* Baker in Hook. et Baker; *Craspedophyllum cheesemanii* (Baker) N.A.Wakef.; *Hymenophyllum cheesemanii* Baker in Hook.f.

FAMILY

Hymenophyllaceae

AUTHORITY

Hymenophyllum armstrongii (Baker) Kirk

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Ferns

NVS CODE

HYMARM

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 26

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

HABITAT

Coastal to montane (in the North Island almost strictly montane), but extending to lowland and coastal areas in the western South Island and Stewart Island. Usually in closed forest where it is typically seen as a high epiphyte on tree trunks and branches often growing intermingled within epiphytic mat-forming mosses such as *Macromitrium*. Also found on damp rocks and cliff faces.



Okarito. Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



Hymenophyllum armstrongii. Photographer: A.J. Townsend

FEATURES

Diminutive, mat-forming fern. Rhizomes long-creeping, gracile, pliant, brittle when dry. Stipes 1-10 mm long, glabrous, membranous, not winged. Laminae oblong, undivided or forked 1-2x, 5-20 × 1-3 mm, dark green with conspicuous black midribs, glabrous, margins usually black, bearing prominent spines. Sori conspicuous, terminal, slightly sunken into lamina. Indusial flaps smooth-edged. Description adapted from Brownsey & Smith-Dodsworth.

SIMILAR TAXA

A distinctive species readily distinguished from all other filmy ferns by its small size, oblong undivided or sparingly divided, dark green fronds with dark black midrib and spiny margins, and by the slightly sunken terminal sori.

FLOWERING

N.A.

FLOWER COLOURS

No flowers

FRUITING

N.A.

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

armstrongii: Named either after Joseph Francis Armstrong (1820-1902) or his son John Beattie Armstrong (1850-1926).

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet Prepared for NZPCN by: P.J. de Lange (17 April 2011). Description adapted from Brownsey & Smith-Dodsworth.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Brownsey, P.J.; Smith-Dodsworth, J.C. 2000: New Zealand Ferns and Allied Plants. Auckland, David Bateman
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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<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/hymenophyllum-armstrongii/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

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