

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

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island, South Island, Stewart Island/Rakiura, Auckland Islands.

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 R. Rolfe, Date taken: 10/02/1983, Licence: CC BY.



Hymenophyllum armstrongii. Photographer: A. J. Townsend, Date taken: 05/10/2011, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

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 1–2×, 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 (2000)).

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.

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 PJ, Smith-Dodsworth JC. 2000. New Zealand Ferns and Allied Plants. David Bateman, Auckland, NZ. 168 p.

Thorsen MJ, Dickinson KJM, Seddon PJ. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285–309. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ppees.2009.06.001>.

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/>