

Hymenophyllum falklandicum

BIOSTATUS

Native

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Evaluated

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CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Ferns

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Terrestrial fern form ing small patches on banks and rocks. **Rhizome** dark brown, slender, creeping, finely and extensively branching, glabrous, bearing numerous widely spaced (20–40 mm apart) fronds. **Stipe** near half of frond length, slender, without wing, dark brown, wiry; rachis similar, upper portion very narrowly winged. **Fronds** bipinnate, 10–20 × 5–7 mm, broadly oblong, membranous; pinnae 10–15, asymmetrically divided with secondary pinnae confiend to apical side; secondary pinnae oblong, truncate, sharply serrated. **Sori** confined to frond apices, 0.65–0.7 mm wide; solitary, inserted on a short segment near base of pinna, brown when mature, indusium elliptic to ovate, deeply bifid, slightly wider that subtending pinnule segment.

SIMILAR TAXA

Has been confused with *Hymenophyllum peltatum* (Poir.) Desv., from which it differs by its over all smaller size, solitary sori, 1–2 rather than 3–5, secondary pinnae, and by the rachis wings restricted to the frond section between the ultimate 2 or 3 pinnae, rather than, as is seen in *H. peltatum* the wing extending for the full length of the rachis.

DISTRIBUTION

In New Zealand confined to Macquarie Island, present also in southern South America (Chile and western Argentina), the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Juan Fernandez islands.

HABITAT

On Macquarie Island known only from feldmark communities

THREATS

None known. Confined in the New Zealand Botanical Region to Macquarie Island, where it is locally common.

GENUS

Hymenophyllum

FAMILY

Hymenophyllaceae

AUTHORITY

Hymenophyllum falklandicum Baker

SYNONYMS

None

ENDEMIC TAXON

No



Varne Plateau, Macquarie Island. Photographer: Jane Gosden, Date taken: 20/03/2016, Licence: CC BY-NC-SA.



Varne Plateau, Macquarie Island. Photographer: Jane Gosden, Date taken: 20/03/2016, Licence: CC BY-NC-SA.

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Unknown.

STATUS NOTE

This species is included in the NZPCN Fact Sheets because Macquarie Island is part of the New Zealand Botanical Region. However, Macquarie Island is part of the Australian Territory, and so its administration lies with that nation.

ETYMOLOGY

hymenophyllum: Membranous leaf, from the Greek humen and phullon

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

2004 | Range Restricted

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 1 November 2008. Description based on herbarium specimens.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Hymenophyllum falklandicum* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/hymenophyllum-falklandicum/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

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

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27 May 2026