

Hymenophyllum flexuosum

COMMON NAME

filmy fern

SYNONYMS

Mecodium flexuosum (A. Cunn.) Copel.; *Hymenophyllum australe* var. *flexuosum* (A.Cunn.) C.Chr.

FAMILY

Hymenophyllaceae

AUTHORITY

Hymenophyllum flexuosum (A. Cunn.) Copel.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Ferns

NVS CODE

HYMFLE

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 72

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand. North, South, Chatham Islands.

HABITAT

Locally common in coastal to montane closed forest (coastal to montane in the North and Chatham Islands, confined to the lowland in the South Island). Usually found on boulders or rocks along waterways and in deeply shaded, rubble slopes but also frequently epiphytic on the plank roots and buttresses of pukatea (*Laurelia novae-zelandiae*) and maire tawake (*Syzygium maire*) in riparian forest. In the northern part of its range it is occasionally found growing with *Hymenophyllum australe*



Franz Josef. Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



Stokes Valley, Lower Hutt. Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe

FEATURES

Terrestrial or low epiphytic fern forming diffuse patches. Rhizomes long-creeping, thin, brittle. Fronds often widely spaced along rhizomes or in widely spaced aggregations. Stipes 30-110 mm long, slender, glabrous; stipes and rachises with a prominent broad, wavy-undulose, crisped wing running almost to stipe base. Laminae ovate 3-4-pinnate, 60-300 × 30-140 mm, bright green to yellow-green, glabrous. Ultimate segments oblong, margins smooth. Sori terminating ultimate segments, not sunken in lamina, solitary or paired, with many on each primary pinna. Indusial flaps with smooth margins. Description adapted from Brownsey & Smith-Dodsworth (2000).

SIMILAR TAXA

As both *Hymenophyllum flexuosum* and *H. pluviatile* grow together they are most likely to be confused. *Hymenophyllum flexuosum* differs from *H. pluviatile* by having lighter green, consistently crisped and crinkly fronds, with the stipe wing prominently crinkled. *Hymenophyllum australe* is only superficially similar, and is easily distinguished from *H. flexuosum* by its dark green-black strongly deltoid fronds, less distinctly crisped stipe wing and preference for rheophytic habitats.

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

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet Prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (18 April 2011). Description adapted from Brownsey & Smith-Dodsworth (2000).

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-flexuosum/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

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