

# Hymenophyllum minimum

## COMMON NAME

filmy fern

## SYNONYMS

Mecodium minimum (A. Rich.) Copel.; Hymenophyllum pygmaeum  
Colenso

## FAMILY

Hymenophyllaceae

## AUTHORITY

Hymenophyllum minimum A. Rich.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Ferns

## NVS CODE

HYMMIN

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n=72

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North, South, Stewart, Chatham, Antipodes, Campbell Auckland Islands. From the upper Kauaeranga Valley (near Thames) and Mt Pirongia south.

## HABITAT

Coastal to montane (usually montane in northern part of range). A common species of shaded rock faces, cliffs, overhangs, and boulder and talus slopes - sometimes in places subjected to salt spray. Often in rather open sites and in places that often dry out for protracted periods of time. Very rarely found growing as an epiphyte.

## FEATURES

Diminutive, compact, dense turf-forming fern. Rhizomes long-creeping, very slender and thin, much branched and interwoven. Fronds bright emerald green. Stipes 3-8 mm long, very thin; stipes and rachises not winged, glabrous. Laminae round to elliptic, pinnate, 5-15 × 5-10 mm, glabrous. Pinnae in 1-5 pairs, margins prominently toothed. Sori solitary and terminating rachis, pedunculate. Indusial flaps toothed, abaxially spiny. Description adapted from Brownsey & Smith-Dodsworth (2000).

## SIMILAR TAXA

Recognised by its small stature, bright green colour, prominently toothed pinnae, solitary, stalked (pedunculate) sori terminating the rachises, and by the toothed indusial flaps whose outer (abaxial) surfaces are covered in spines.



Hawkins hill, Wellington. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Hawkins hill, Wellington. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth

## 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

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

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

## MORE INFORMATION

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