

# 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

2017 | Not Threatened

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island (from the upper Kauaeranga Valley (near Thames) and Mt Pirongia south), South Island, Stewart Island/Rakiura, Chatham Islands, Antipodes Islands, Auckland Islands.

## HABITAT

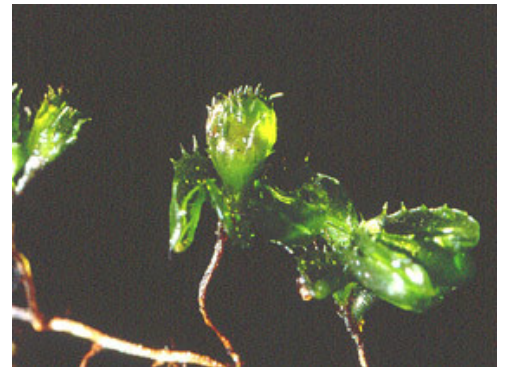
Coastal to montane (usually montane in northern part of range). A common species of shaded rock faces, cliffs, overhangs, and boulder and talus slopes—sometimes in places subjected to salt spray. Often in rather open sites and in places that often dry out for protracted periods of time. Very rarely found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

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Diminutive, compact, dense turf-forming fern. **Rhizomes** long-creeping, very slender and thin, much branched and interwoven. **Fronde**s 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)).



Hawkins hill, Wellington. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Hawkins hill, Wellington. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

### 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.

### 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 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

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/>