

# Hymenophyllum multifidum

## COMMON NAME

much-divided filmy fern

## SYNONYMS

Mecodium multifidum (G. Forst.) Copel.; Hymenophyllum multifidum var. oligocarpum (Colenso) Domin; Trichomanes multifidum G.Forst.; Hymenophyllum multifidum var. truncatum (Colenso) Domin; Hymenophyllum multifidum var. alpinum (Colenso) Domin; Hymenophyllum oligocarpum Colenso; Hymenophyllum truncatum Colenso; Davallia multifidum (G.Forst.) Spreng.; Hymenophyllum alpinum Colenso

## FAMILY

Hymenophyllaceae

## AUTHORITY

Hymenophyllum multifidum (G. Forst.) Sw.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Ferns

## NVS CODE

HYMMUL

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 52

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand. North, South, Stewart, Chatham, Antipodes, Campbell and Auckland Islands.

## HABITAT

Widespread in coastal to montane forest and subalpine scrub. A common ground cover of the forest floor, as well as epiphytic, also common on rock faces, boulders and on shaded rock overhangs



Akatarawa. June 1984. Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



Stokes Valley, Lower Hutt. Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe

## FEATURES

Terrestrial or epiphytic fern often forming thick patches on substrate. Rhizomes long-creeping, slender, much branched and interwoven. Fronds bright or dark green. Stipes 20-100 mm, slender, glabrous, sometimes winged above; rachises winged throughout. Laminae broader than long or elliptic to deltoid, 3-4-pinnate, 30-200 × 15-100 mm, glabrous. Ultimate segments linear, margins toothed. Sori large and conspicuous, on short segments, 1-several on each primary pinna, usually set at 90 degrees to plane of frond. Indusium connate, tubular; flaps margins entire, sometimes also undulose, receptacle usually exerted. Description adapted from Brownsey & Smith-Dodsworth (2000).

## SIMILAR TAXA

Except for reduced specimens, *Hymenophyllum multifidum* is easily recognised by the deeply toothed pinnae, and prominent sori bent at right-angles to the plane of the frond, by the tubular indusia, entire often undulose indusial flaps and exerted recaptacle. Reduced states can be confused with *Hymenophyllum minimum* which is easily distinguished by the solitary sori terminating the rachises, and by the toothed indusial flaps and spinose abaxial surfaces of the indusia, and from *H. cupressiforme* by the stipe which is only partially winged rather than winged throughout, and by the sori which are bent at right-angles to the plane of the frond. The indusial flaps of *Hymenophyllum cupressiforme* are often slightly toothed.

## 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

**multifidum:** Much divided; from the Latin multus and findere; the leaf

## WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet Prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (20 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-multifidum/> (Date website was queried)

## MORE INFORMATION

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