

Hymenophyllum nephrophyllum

COMMON NAMES

kidney fern, konehu, kopakopa, raurenga

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Ferns

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Terrestrial or epiphytic fern forming extensive, interwoven creeping patches, **Rhizomes** long-creeping, much branched and/or interwoven.

Stipes 50–250 mm long, very brittle, margins prominently winged. **Fronde**s bright yellow-green to dark green, glossy. **Laminae** 30–100–(120) × 40–130 mm, reniform to almost orbicular, entire (not divided), venation conspicuous. **Sori** crowded along lamina margin, slightly sunken into lamina. **Indusia** cupular, not widened at mouth, receptacle exerted.

SIMILAR TAXA

None

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island, South Island, Stewart Island/Rakiura, Chatham Islands.

HABITAT

Coastal to montane, usually in dense forest but also found on boulders, rock falls, cliff faces and in some shrub land, and early stage successional forest, rarely in pine plantations.

GENUS

Hymenophyllum

FAMILY

Hymenophyllaceae

AUTHORITY

Hymenophyllum nephrophyllum Ebihara et K.Iwats.

SYNONYMS

Trichomanes reniforme G.Forst.; Cardiomanes reniforme (G.Forst.) C.Presl

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult—should not be removed from the wild



Ruahine Range. Photographer: John Sawyer, Date taken: 01/10/2009, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Spent sori. Stokes Valley. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 13/09/2006, Licence: CC BY.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

UPL: Obligate Upland

Rarely is a hydrophyte, almost always in uplands (non-wetlands).

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

PLANT OF THE MONTH

This plant has been featured as a Plant of the Month – see [Trilepidea: NZPCN newsletter for August 2012](#) for the full story.

ETYMOLOGY

hymenophyllum: Membranous leaf, from the Greek humen and phullon

NVS CODE

HYMNEP

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 72

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Auckland: 2025 | Regionally Not Threatened | Qualifiers: DPS, DPT Help

The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Auckland conservation status information is sourced from the [“Conservation status of vascular plant species in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland”](#) Simpkins E et al. (2025) report.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Brownsey PJ, Smith-Dodsworth JC. 2000. New Zealand Ferns and Allied Plants. David Bateman, Auckland, NZ. 168 p.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (20 April 2011). Description adapted from Brownsey & Smith-Dodsworth (2000).

MORE INFORMATION

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

PDF DATE

25 May 2026