

Hymenophyllum polyanthos

COMMON NAMES

cloud filmy fern

BIOSTATUS

Native

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Data Deficient

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Ferns

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

For a detailed description see [Flora of New Zealand](#)

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. Kermadec Islands (Raoul Island only).

Circumtropical—widespread throughout the Pacific and in Asia and northern Australia.

HABITAT

Confined to 'wet forest' on Raoul Island where it grows sparingly on the forest floor and as a low epiphyte with *Hymenophyllum demissum* and *H. sanguinolentum*.

THREATS

The only known New Zealand population of *Hymenophyllum polyanthos* is confined to Raoul Island, an active volcanic island and part of the Kermadec Islands Nature Reserve. There it is judged secure from human-related threats, however, its very small area of occupancy (< 1 ha) makes it highly susceptible to stochastic events. Therefore, it has a conservation status of Threatened – Nationally Critical.

GENUS

Hymenophyllum

FAMILY

Hymenophyllaceae

AUTHORITY

Hymenophyllum polyanthos Sw.

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult—should not be removed from the wild

ETYMOLOGY

hymenophyllum: Membranous leaf, from the Greek humen and phullon



Raoul Island, from a specimen collected by Peter de Lange, May 2011. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 29/11/2011, Licence: CC BY.



Mid frond. Raoul Island, from a specimen collected by Peter de Lange, May 2011. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 29/11/2011, Licence: CC BY.

NVS CODE

HYMPOL

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: DP, OL, SO

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, SO

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, SO

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet Prepared for NZPCN by: P.J. de Lange (15 June 2011).

MORE INFORMATION

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

PDF DATE

27 May 2026