

# Hymenophyllum pulcherrimum

## COMMON NAME

tufted filmy fern

## SYNONYMS

Mecodium pulcherrimum (Colenso) Copel.

## FAMILY

Hymenophyllaceae

## AUTHORITY

Hymenophyllum pulcherrimum Colenso

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Ferns

## NVS CODE

HYMPUL

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 22

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North, South, Stewart and Auckland Islands (from Te Moehau and Mt Pirongia south).

## HABITAT

Lowland to montane (mostly montane in the northern part of its range), in closed forest. Usually epiphytic, rarely found growing on rocks.

## FEATURES

Tufted mostly epiphytic fern. Rhizomes erect, short-creeping, sparsely to densely covered in red, bristly hairs. Stipes 30-150 mm long, rather stout, glabrescent; stipes and rachises winged almost to base, wing thickness variable for entire length. Fronds pendulous, pale green, glabrous. Laminae 100-400(-600) × 40-150 mm. ovate, narrowly elliptic to elliptic, 3-4-pinnate. Ultimate segments oblong, undulose (weakly to strongly so), margins smooth. Sori arising on short branches near the ends of the ultimate segments; many on each primary pinna. Involucre ovoid to ellipsoid; indusial flaps entire.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Easily recognised by the tufted growth habit, large pendulous pale green, glabrous, crinkly (wavy) fronds, and by the smooth margins of the stipe and rachis wing and smooth pinnae margins.



Mt Te Aroha. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



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## 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

**pulcherrimum**: Very beautiful; from the Latin pulcherrimus

## 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

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

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

## MORE INFORMATION

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