

Hymenophyllum villosum

COMMON NAME

hairy filmy fern

SYNONYMS

Mecodium villosum (Colenso) Copel.

FAMILY

Hymenophyllaceae

AUTHORITY

Hymenophyllum villosum Colenso

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Ferns

NVS CODE

HYMVIL

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 72

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North, South, Stewart, Chatham, Campbell and Auckland Islands. From Te Moehau and Mt Pirongia south becoming more common in the southern North island. widespread through the remaining islands.

HABITAT

Montane to subalpine in closed forest and subalpine scrub. Usually epiphytic, occasionally on rotting logs, mossy hummocks, rocks and cliff faces.

FEATURES

Terrestrial or epiphytic fern forming dense patches on suitable substrates. Rhizomes long-creeping, slender. Frond dark green, strongly aromatic, scent somewhat sanguinely metallic (especially when dry). Stipes 20-90 mm long, slender; stipes, rachises and laminae copiously covered in hairs, narrowly winged for most of length, black, wing often zig-zagged in upper portion. Laminae 50-180(-240) × 20-100 mm, narrowly ovate, elliptic to narrowly elliptic-deltoid, 3-4-pinnate, glabrescent. Ultimate segments 0.25-0.75 mm wide, oblong, margins entire though usually undulose especially toward distal portion of frond. Sori on short branches in distal portion of frond, many borne on each primary pinna. Indusium narrowly ovoid to ellipsoid, abaxially smooth; indusial flaps entire. Receptacle included. Description adapted from Brownsey & Smith-Dodsworth (2000).



Mt Te Moehau. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Mt Te Moehau. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth

SIMILAR TAXA

Closely allied to *Hymenophyllum sanguinolentum* from which it differs by its smaller overall dimensions, more finely divided fronds with narrower ultimate segments; by the copiously hairy stipes, rachises and laminae; and by the abaxially smooth rather than crested surfaces of the indusia. In some parts of its range it can be found growing syntopically with *Hymenophyllum sanguinolentum*, whilst in other locations, like the Chatham Islands it grows in apparent isolation from *H. sanguinolentum* which is not known there.

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 *hymen* and *phullon*

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (21 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-villosum/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

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