

# Lateristachys lateralis

## SYNONYMS

*Lycopodium laterale* R.Br.; *Lycopodium consimilis* Colenso; *Lycopodiella lateralis* (R.Br.) B.Øllg.; *Lepidotis lateralis* (R.Br.) Rothm.

## FAMILY

Lycopodiaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Lateristachys lateralis* (R.Br.) Holub

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

No

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lycophytes (clubmosses, selaginella, quillworts)

## NVS CODE

LYCLAS

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = c.122

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. New Zealand: North Island (common from Te Paki to Waikato otherwise scarce), South Island (North-west Nelson to Westport), Chatham Islands (common on Chatham Island (Rēkohu) but scarce on Pitt Island (Rangiauria). Also Australia and New Caledonia.

## HABITAT

Coastal to montane in peat bogs, gumland and other open, poorly drained shrublands.

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACW: Facultative Wetland

Usually is a hydrophyte but occasionally found in uplands (non-wetlands).



Mt Te Moehau, September. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Mt Te Moehau, September. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

**Main stems** up to 200 mm or more long, rooting at intervals. **Aerial stems** up to 60 mm long, erect, rigid or somewhat flaccid. **Branchlet systems** scattered or grouped, erect or sometimes lax, 80–500 mm long, unbranched or branched once or twice. **Sterile leaves** densely spirally arranged, imbricate, spreading or recurved towards tips, linear-subulate to linear-lanceolate, 4–8 × 0.5–0.7 mm wide, dull pale green, yellow-green to yellow, or reddish-brown bases decurrent. **Strobili** solitary, to 30 mm long, chocolate brown, erect, lateral on main stem or terminal on short lateral branches, sessile. **Sporophylls** imbricate, ovate, acuminate, spreading at maturity, brown; margins lacerate to irregularly serrate. (Description adapted from Chinnock (1998) and Brownsey & Smith-Dodsworth (2000)).

## SIMILAR TAXA

Easily distinguished from *Brownseya serpentina* with which it sometimes grows by the sessile, chocolate brown cones borne on small or long lateral branches. In its extreme form it is easily distinguished from *Lateristachys diffusa* by the erect, undivided or sparingly forked aerial stems, and by the strobili which are overtopped by vegetative shoots. *Lateristachys diffusa* has prostrate, spreading branches that are dichotomously-branched with the strobili aligned at ± right angles to the prostrate branches. However, peat bog forms of *L. lateralis* are extremely difficult to separate from *L. diffusa* and it is felt that both species intergrade in the northern South Island (see Brownsey & Smith-Dodsworth 2000). Regardless Australian treat both species as unquestionably distinct (Chinnock 1998).

## FLOWERING

N.A.

## FLOWER COLOURS

No flowers

## FRUITING

N.A.

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Transplants can be grown moderately easily if planted in peat within a pot which is then kept partially immersed in a tub of water.

## WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 16 March 2011. Description adapted from Chinnock (1998) and Brownsey & Smith-Dodsworth (2000).

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Brownsey PJ, Smith-Dodsworth JC. 2000. New Zealand Ferns and Allied Plants. David Bateman, Auckland, NZ. 168 p.  
Chinnock RJ. 1998. Lycopodiaceae. *Flora of Australia 48, Ferns Gymnosperms and allied groups*: 66–85. ABRS/CSIRO Victoria, Australia.

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/lateristachys-lateralis/>