

Lycopodiella diffusa

SYNONYMS

Lycopodium laterale var. *diffusum* (R.Br.) Hook.f.; *Lepidotis diffusa* (R.Br.) Rothm.; *Lycopodiella ramulosa* (Kirk) B.Øllg.; *Lycopodium diffusum* R.Br.; *Lycopodium ramulosum* Kirk; *Lateristachys diffusa* (R.Br.) Holub; *Lateristachys ramulosa* (Kirk) Holub

FAMILY

Lycopodiaceae

AUTHORITY

Lycopodiella diffusa (R.Br.) B.Øllg.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lycophytes (clubmosses, selaginella, quillworts)

NVS CODE

LYCDIF

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. New Zealand: North, South, Stewart and Auckland Islands (from the Raukumara Range southwards). Also Australia.

HABITAT

Lowland to alpine (mostly montane to alpine in northern part of range), in peat bogs, pakihi country, on coal measures, fell field and on poorly drained, nutrient impoverished soils.

FEATURES

Main stems up to 200 mm long, prostrate, rooting at intervals. Branchlet systems scattered along main stems, prostrate, appressed to substratum, but with tips upturned, dichotomously branched and \pm rosette-forming, often imbricate. Leaves spirally arranged, imbricate, curved upwards, thick, 3.0-5.5 mm long, 0.5-0.8 mm wide, linear-subulate to linear-lanceolate, green and then often tipped reddish brown, or reddish brown. Strobili solitary, 6-16 mm long, dark reddish brown, lateral or terminal, sessile. Sporophylls imbricate, ovate, acuminate; bases coalescent; margins entire or with a few obscure teeth. Description adapted from Chinnock (1998) and Brownsey & Smith-Dodsworth (2000).



Charleston. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Charleston. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth

SIMILAR TAXA

In its extreme state it is easily distinguished from the most common form of *Lycopodiella lateralis* by its dichotomously-branched, prostrate stems. However, forms of *L. lateralis* growing in restiad peat in the Waikato and on the Chatham islands, and plants of *L. lateralis* in North-West Nelson appear to intergrade with *L. diffusa*. Australian treatments (e.g., Chinnock 1998) keep both species but based on field observations in New Zealand it would seem that the status of *L. diffusa* needs to be investigated further.

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.

ETYMOLOGY

lycopodiella: Diminutive of *Lycopodium* (little wolf's-foot)

diffusa: Of spreading growth

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, P.J.; Smith-Dodsworth, J.C. 2000: *New Zealand Ferns and Allied Plants*. Auckland, David Bateman
Chinnock, R.J. 1998: *Lycopodiaceae*. *Flora of Australia* 48: 66-85.

CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Lycopodiella diffusa* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/lycopodiella-diffusa/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/lycopodiella-diffusa/>