

# Paesia scaberula

## COMMON NAME

lace fern, ring fern, scented fern, pig fern

## SYNONYMS

*Pteris scaberula* A.Rich., *Allosorus scaberulus* (A.Rich.) C.Presl,  
*Ornithopteris scaberula* (A.Rich.) J.Sm., *Pteris microphylla* A.Cunn.

## FAMILY

Dennstaedtiaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Paesia scaberula* (A.Rich.) Kuhn

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Ferns

## NVS CODE

PAESCA

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 52

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: Three Kings, North, South, Stewart and Chatham Islands.

## HABITAT

Coastal to montane. An often common fern of open or disturbed ground, rough pasture, grassland or reverting farmland - where it often is considered a serious pest.

## FEATURES

Terrestrial ferns. Rhizome long-creeping, much branched, stiff and somewhat brittle, 1–2 mm diameter, chestnut-brown, densely clad in slender red-brown, bristly hairs. Stipes 50–400 × 1–2 mm, stiff, muricate to almost smooth, densely clad in slender, bristly, red-brown hairs (especially near base) and short, glandular, yellow hairs in upper portion. Rhachis strongly to slightly zig-zagged, strongly muricate to smooth. Laminae 2–3–4-pinnate, 100–800 × 50–350 mm, deltoid to ovate or elliptic, stiffly coriaceous to subcoriaceous, adaxially yellow-green to yellow, abaxially, covered by numerous, short, glandular hairs, midribs bearing bristly red-brown hairs; veins obscure, free. Pinnae finely dissected, primary pinnae shortly stalked, 70–200 × 30–50 mm, ovate to lanceolate, acuminate. Secondary pinnae shortly stalked, up to 25 × 10 mm, lanceolate. Segments decurrent, pinnatisect to almost pinnate, up to 5 × 2 mm, narrow, sharply toothed or incised, often apiculate. Sori usually copious, extending along both margins of segments, but not reaching base or apex. True indusium delicate, often vestigial



Coromandel. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Coromandel. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth

### **SIMILAR TAXA**

Easily distinguished by the yellow-green to yellow, glandular sticky, finely dissected, fragrant fronds, zig-zagged rachises and elongated marginal sori, protected by an inrolled, scarios lamina on the outside of the ultimate segments and a membranous (sometimes almost vestigial) indusium on the inside of the ultimate segments.

### **FLOWERING**

Not Applicable - Spore Producing

### **FLOWER COLOURS**

No flowers

### **FRUITING**

Not Applicable - Spore Producing

### **PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE**

A weedy fern that often self establishes in gardens. Prefers a sunny, open situation and is tolerant of a range of soil types.

### **ETYMOLOGY**

**paesia**: After the Portuguese Duke fernando Dias Paes lele, commander in South America in the 17th Century

**scaberula**: A little roughened; from the Latin scaber, leaves

### **ATTRIBUTION**

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (8 November 2012). Description adapted from Allan (1961) and Brownsey & Smith-Dodsworth (2000).

### **REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING**

Allan, H.H. 1961: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. I. Wellington, Government Printer.

Brownsey, P.J.; Smith-Dodsworth, J.C. 2000: New Zealand Ferns and Allied Plants. Auckland, David Bateman.

### **NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION**

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

### **MORE INFORMATION**

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/paesia-scaberula/>