

Phlegmariurus billardierei

COMMON NAMES

hanging clubmoss

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lycophytes (clubmosses, selaginella, quillworts)

SIMILAR TAXA

Easily recognised by the usually epiphytic life style and pendent branches which divide dichotomously, into portions of equal diameter. The bases of these usually produce roots. In this species the sporophylls are smaller than the sterile leaves, and aggregated into quadrangular (4-angled) strobili. *Phlegmariurus billardierei* is distinguished from *P. varius* by its generally longer, pendent, more divided stems, and especially by the strobili. These are distinct from the sterile leaves, unlike those of *P. varius*, where the transition from leaf to sporophyll is gradual.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: Kermadec Islands (Raoul Island), Manawatāwhi / Three Kings Islands, North Island, South Island and Stewart Island/Rakiura, Chatham Islands.

HABITAT

Coastal, lowland to montane forest (generally uncommon in montane forest). Usually eiphytic, occasionally terrestrial—and then often on cliff faces or on boulder field.

GENUS

Phlegmariurus

FAMILY

Lycopodiaceae

AUTHORITY

Phlegmariurus billardierei (Spring) Brownsey & Perrie

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

ETYMOLOGY

billardierei: Named after Jacques Houttou de Labillardiere (1755-1834), 19th century French botanist who described several New Zealand plants

NVS CODE

PHLBIL



Coromandel. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Kaitoke Regional Park. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 01/09/2007, Licence: CC BY.

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = c.256

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Brownsey PJ, Perrie LR. 2020. Lycopodiaceae. In: Breitwieser I, Wilton AD. Flora of New Zealand - Ferns and Lycophytes. Fascicle 27. Manaaki Whenua Press, Lincoln. <https://doi.org/10.7931/kyrt-4p89>.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

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

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/phlegmariurus-billardierei/>

PDF DATE

27 May 2026