

# Phylloglossum drummondii

## BIOSTATUS

Native

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Threatened – Nationally Endangered | Qualifiers: DPS, DPT, EF, PD, SO

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lycophytes (clubmosses, selaginella, quillworts)

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Bright yellow to yellow-green, fleshy, tufted, seasonal plant arising from a small white to pale pink ovoid to ellipsoid tuber. **Plants** 15–50 mm tall.

**Tuber** 3–4 mm long, ovoid, white usually subtended by a smaller developing daughter tuber. **Stem** 6–9 mm, erect, mostly subterranean.

**Roots** 1–2, fleshy, white. **Leaves** tufted and clustered in a rosette, fleshy, erect or spreading, 4.0–30.0 × 0.5–1.2 mm, linear, acute, terete. **Fertile stem** solitary; peduncle 10–50 mm tall, white, fleshy; strobilus erect, 4–10 mm; sporophylls 2–3 × 1–2 mm, ovate-triangular, acute to attenuate.

**Sporangium** attached to sporophyll base, 1.0–1.5 × 1.0–1.5 mm, reniform, at first pale yellow maturing cream.

## SIMILAR TAXA

None.

## DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. North Island, South Island. In the South Island it is only known from very old gatherings made from Marlborough and Banks Peninsula. It is now regarded as extinct at both locations. In the North Island it was once found from Te Pahi south to the northern Waikato. It is now only known from scattered sites between the Surville Cliffs and Dargaville. Common in Australia.

## HABITAT

Coastal to lowland sites. Most often found on recently burned ground, often in gumland scrub, or overlying other similarly low, open vegetation such as that developed on clay pans and acidic soils. Also found on ultramafic soils, and heavily weathered and/or podzolised sandstones.

## THREATS

This species has declined markedly as a consequence of the conversion of its preferred gumland scrub habitat to farmland, or through the loss of these habitats as a consequence of natural succession. Plants have also been lost through over collection in some smaller, vulnerable populations.

## GENUS

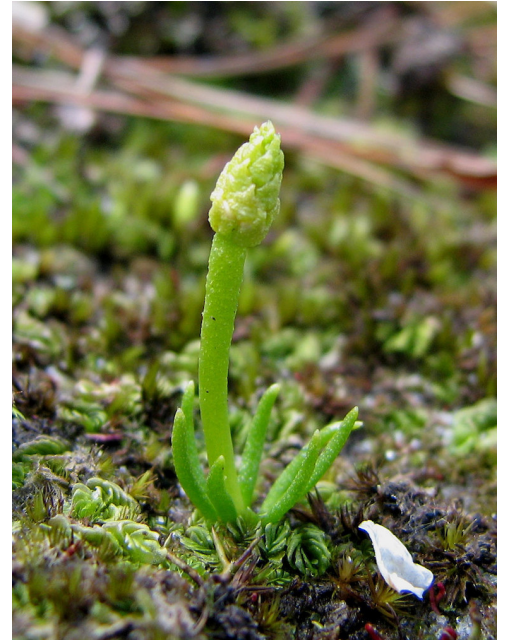
Phylloglossum

## FAMILY

Lycopodiaceae

## AUTHORITY

Phylloglossum drummondii Kunze



Phylloglossum drummondii. Photographer: Kevin Matthews, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Lake Ohia, Northland. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 05/09/2008, Licence: CC BY.

## SYNONYMS

*Lycopodium sanguisorba* Spring

## ENDEMIC TAXON

No

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

The sterile blades appear in July and may persist until November (though they have usually dried off by late October). Fertile cones are produced one or two per tuft from about August to October.

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult. Should not be removed from the wild.

## WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

## PLANT OF THE MONTH

This plant has been featured as a Plant of the Month – see [Trilepidea: NZPCN newsletter for February 2024](#) for the full story.

## NVS CODE

PHYDRU

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Threatened – Nationally Endangered | Qualifiers: DP, EF, PD, SO

2012 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: EF, SO

2009 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: SO, EF

2004 | Threatened – Nationally Endangered

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

## REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Auckland: 2025 | Regionally Extirpated Help

The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Auckland conservation status information is sourced from the [“Conservation status of vascular plant species in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland”](#) Simpkins E et al. (2025) report.

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Bartlett B. 1944. *Eucamptodon* and *Phylloglossum drummondii*. *Auckland Botanical Society Journal* 1: 4–5.

Braggins J. 1974. *Phylloglossum* miniature denizen of the North. *Wellington Botanical Society Bulletin* 38: 28–34.

Chinnock R.J. 1998. Lycopodiaceae. *Flora of Australia* 48, *Ferns Gymnosperms and allied groups*: 66–85.

ABRS/CSIRO Victoria, Australia.

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet Prepared by P.J. de Lange (1 November 2009). Description based on Chinnock (1998).

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/phyllglossum-drummondii/>

## PDF DATE

27 May 2026