

# Pteris tremula

## COMMON NAME

shaking brake, tender brake, Australian bracken

## FAMILY

Pteridaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Pteris tremula* R. Br.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

No

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Ferns

## NVS CODE

PTETRE

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = c.240

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. New Zealand: Kermadec Islands (Raoul, Meyers and Macauley Islands), Three Kings, North, South, Chatham Islands. Also Australia, Tasmania, Lord Howe, Norfolk and Fiji.

## HABITAT

Coastal to montane (in northern part of range) in open, dry forest, scrub, wasteland, along track and roadsides and on retaining walls and similar sites in built up areas.

## FEATURES

Stout terrestrial ferns. Rhizomes short, erect, apex covered with long narrow, pale brown scales. Fronds dimorphic, tufted. Stipes 0.15-0.6 m long, glabrous (rarely with a few narrow basal scales), red-brown or black, often basally so and then red-yellow for rest of length. Laminae 0.3-1.2 × 0.2-0.7 m, bright green, yellow-green or yellow, ovate, ovate-deltoid, 3-4-pinnate at base, membranous, rachis red-brown or yellow-green. Pinnae overlapping; most secondary pinnae stalked or sessile. Ultimate sterile segments 6-38 × 3 mm wide, linear, apices blunt margins toothed; ultimate fertile segments 5-35 × 1-2 mm, linear, apices blunt, margins toothed. Veins free, simple or 1-2-forked. Sori ± continuous on a marginal vein, but absent from bases and apices of ultimate segments, protected by a membranous inrolled pinna margins

## SIMILAR TAXA

Distinguished from the other species of *Pteris* indigenous or naturalised in New Zealand by the lamina which has free veins, 3-4-pinnate laminae at the base and 3-pinnate at the middle. It is perhaps superficially most similar to the uncommon naturalised *Pteris dentata* Forssk.



Coromandel. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Coromandel. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth

## FLOWERING

Not applicable - spore producing

## FLOWER COLOURS

No flowers

## FRUITING

Not applicable - spore producing

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Very easily grown, often naturalizing in gardens and becoming weedy (and may even self establish in urban areas from spores blown in from elsewhere). Very fast growing and tolerate of most conditions except waterlogged soils and heavy shade

## ETYMOLOGY

**pteris:** A fern known to the ancient Greeks; from the Greek pteris

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (17 January 2012). Description adapted from Brownsey & Smith-Dodsworth (2000) and Kramer & McCarthy (1998).

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Brownsey, P.J.; Smith-Dodsworth, J.C. 2000: New Zealand Ferns and Allied Plants. Auckland, David Bateman.  
Kramer, K.U.; McCarthy, P.M. 1998: Pteridiaceae. Pp. 241-248. Flora of Australia 48. Australian Biological Resources Study, CSIRO Canberra

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/pteris-tremula/>