

# Rumohra adiantiformis

## COMMON NAMES

leathery shield fern, florists fern

## BIOSTATUS

Native

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

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## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Ferns

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

**Rhizome** 10–15 mm diameter, densely covered in long, golden brown to red-brown scales; margins entire or minutely toothed; apices acuminate.

**Fron**ds often widely spaced or aggregated toward rhizome apices, 0.2–0.9 m long. **Stipes** 0.2–0.8 m long, thick, densely invested by peltate, golden brown scales. **Lamina** 2–3-pinnate, coriaceous, 100–500 × 70–400 mm, ovate to deltoid, adaxially glossy dark green to yellow-green (sometimes pale orange-green), abaxially paler and dull, ± scaly. **Primary and lower secondary pinnae** stalked; ultimate segments oblong, obtused to rounded, crenate to bluntly lobed; veins immersed. **Sori** black when mature; indusium with a dark centre.

## SIMILAR TAXA

*Davallia* is superficially similar. *Rumohra* is easily separated from the New Zealand indigenous and naturalised *Davallia* by the dark black, circular sori. In the wild both species are rarely found together. *Davallia tasmanii* subsp. *tasmanii* is endemic to Manawatāwhi / Three Kings Islands—where it does on occasion grow with *Rumohra*; while *D. tasmanii* subsp. *cristata* is known from one site in Puketi Forest, Northland.

## DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. New Zealand: Manawatāwhi / Three Kings Islands, North Island, South Island, Stewart Island/Rakiura, Chatham Islands. Also Central and South America, southern Africa, Madagascar, the Mascarenes, Seychelles, New Guinea, Australia (depending on the way *R. adiantiformis* is circumscribed)

## HABITAT

Coastal to montane. Epiphytic, lithophytic or terrestrial in forest or dense scrub. Usually in indigenous forest but also commonly seen epiphytic on willow (*Salix* spp.) along river banks, in gullies and on the margins of wetlands.

## GENUS

*Rumohra*

## FAMILY

Dryopteridaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Rumohra adiantiformis* (G.Forst.) Ching



Stokes Valley, Lower Hutt. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 13/09/2006, Licence: CC BY.



Sori, Dunedin. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

## SYNONYMS

*Polystichum adiantiforme*

## TAXONOMIC NOTES

*Rumohra adiantiformis* is a polymorphic species. Some overseas races of it are popular in cultivation, where the long-lasting fronds are used for floral work. The most widespread cultivated race of this fern comes from South Africa, and this has been found sparingly established in Whanganui. The New Zealand plant has little resemblance to this plant and as it is more fickle to cultivate it is unlikely to be used in the same way.

## ENDEMIC TAXON

No

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Although the New Zealand race of *Rumohra* is easily grown, it is slow to establish. Best results are obtained from plants attached to tree trunks or grown in hanging baskets. *Rumohra* prefers a humus enriched, damp free draining soil or potting medium. It does not like full sun and should not be allowed to dry out.

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

UPL: Obligate Upland

Rarely is a hydrophyte, almost always in uplands (non-wetlands).

## ETYMOLOGY

**rumohra:** After Rumohr

**adiantiformis:** Resembling *Adiantum*, maiden hair fern

## NVS CODE

RUMADI

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 82

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

## REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Auckland: 2025 | Regionally Not Threatened | Qualifiers: DPS, DPT 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.

Otago: 2025 | Regionally Not Threatened Help

The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Otago conservation status information is sourced from the "[Conservation Status of Indigenous Vascular Plants in Otago, 2025](#)" Jarvie S et al. (2025) report.

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Brownsey PJ, Smith-Dodsworth JC. 2000. *New Zealand Ferns and Allied Plants*. David Bateman, Auckland, NZ. 168 p.

Jones DL. 1998. *Rumohra*. *Flora of Australia 48, Ferns Gymnosperms and allied groups*: 401–402. ABR/CSIRO Victoria, Australia.

### **ATTRIBUTION**

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (13 November 2012). Description adapted from Jones (1998) and Brownsey & Smith-Dodsworth (2000)

### **NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION**

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

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

### **MORE INFORMATION**

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/rumohra-adiantiformis/>

### **PDF DATE**

08 June 2026