

Schizaea dichotoma

COMMON NAME

fan fern

FAMILY

Schizaeaceae

AUTHORITY

Schizaea dichotoma (L.) J.E.Sm.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Ferns

NVS CODE

SCHDIC

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: SO, Sp

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: SO

2004 | Sparse

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. In New Zealand confined to the Kermadec Islands (Raoul Island) and North Island from Te Pahi south to Kawhia and Mt Maunganui, and locally around geothermally active sites around Rotorua and Taupo. Widespread from Madagascar east to Australia and across the Pacific.

HABITAT

Usually associated with lowland kauri (*Agathis australis* (D.Don.) Lindl.) forest but also found in coastal areas and offshore island under pohutukawa (*Metrosideros excelsa* Sol. ex Gaertn.) dominated forest (e.g., Mayor (Tuhua) Island). In geothermal areas it is often found under shrubs of *Kunzea ericoides* var. *microflora* (G.Simpson) W.Harris.

FEATURES

Tufted, widely creeping fern forming diffuse patches in open, often semi-shaded sparsely vegetated ground; usually arising from within thick leaf litter. Stipes 100-350 x 1.-1.5 mm, brown at base, green to dark green, erect, flattened, flabellate in upper portion with stipe forked 3-6(-8) times, smooth. Laminae at apices of stipe ends, pinnate (fertile), 2-7 mm long, bright green to yellow-green. Pinnae in 5-8 pairs, infolded, 2-4 mm long. Description modified from Brownsey & Smith-Dodsworth 2000.

SIMILAR TAXA

None. The combination of the dark green, flattened, fan-shaped frond with each stipe end (of the fan) surmounted with a fertile laminae are unique to this species within the New Zealand representatives of the genus.



Close up. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Paihia. Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe

FLOWERING

Not applicable - spore producing

FLOWER COLOURS

No flowers

FRUITING

Not applicable - spore producing

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult - should not be removed from the wild

THREATS

Not Threatened. A naturally uncommon, biologically sparse species. It can at times be very common but it is usually found as widely scattered populations. There is little doubt that some populations have declined due to land development and other changes in the surrounding vegetation (e.g., Mt Maunganui)

ETYMOLOGY

dichotoma: Forked or divided into pairs

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange July 2005. Description modified from Brownsey & Smith-Dodsworth 2000.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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): *Schizaea dichotoma* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/schizaea-dichotoma/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/schizaea-dichotoma/>