

# Zealandia novae-zealandiae

## COMMON NAME

mountain hound's tongue fern

## SYNONYMS

*Phymatosorus novae-zealandiae* (Baker) Pic. Serm.; *Phymatodes novae-zealandiae* (Barker) Pic. Serm.; *Polypodium novae-zealandiae* Baker in Hook.; *Microsorium novae-zealandiae* (Baker) Copel.

## FAMILY

Polypodiaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Zealandia novae-zealandiae* (Baker) Testo et A.R.Field

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Ferns

## NVS CODE

MICNOV

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 74

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Sparse

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island from about Maunaupaki (Camels Hump) and Table Mountain (Kauaeranga Valley) and Mt Karioi south to the southern Tararua Ranges.

## HABITAT

An epiphytic species of montane to subalpine (600 - 1400 m a.s.l.) cloud forest and scrub. Very rarely found growing on rocks or logs on the forest floor.

## FEATURES

Rhizomes long creeping, 5-10 mm diameter, covered in erect, orange-brown (rust-coloured) hyaline scales. Stipes 100-300 mm long, pale brown, wiry and pliant. Frond lamina pinnate, 100-1200 x 70-350 mm, dark green or yellow green, upper surface glossy, undersides dull and paler in colour, ovate, coriaceous, more or less glabrous. Pinnae in 3-30 pairs, 70-180 x 5-15 mm, long tapering to obtuse or subacute apices, bases adnate, margins smooth or undulose. Sori conspicuous, orange, positioned near margins of pinna.



Waikaremoana. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Holdsworth, Tararua Forest Park. Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe

### SIMILAR TAXA

Readily distinguished from *Dendroconche scandens* and *Zealandia pustulata* subsp. *pustulata* by its restriction to North Island montane cloud forests; larger, narrower, non-fragrant fronds, and by the distinctive erect, orange-brown, hyaline rhizome scales. The genus *Zealandia* differs from *Dendroconche* by the usually pruinose rhizomes and holoepiphytic rather than hemiepiphytic growth habit, absence of laterally inserted climbing roots and sori which are deeply impressed in the lamina (Testo et al. 2019).

### 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 fairly widespread endemic of upper montane and cloud forests. It can be locally very common.

### ETYMOLOGY

**novae-zealandiae**: Of New Zealand

### TAXONOMIC NOTES

The treatment of Testo et al. (2019) in which the New Zealand ferns previously treated by New Zealand authors as *Microsorium* (see Brownsey & Smith-Dodsworth 2000) are segregated into two genera, *Dendroconche* and *Zealandia* is followed here.

### ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (9 January 2005). Description adapted 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  
Testo, W.L.; Field, A.R.; Sessa, E.B.; Sundue, M. 2019: Phylogenetic and morphological analyses support the resurrection of *Dendroconche* and the recognition of two new genera in Polypodiaceae Subfamily Microsoroideae. *Systematic Botany* 44(4): 1-16. DOI 10.1600/036364419X15650157948607

### NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/zealandia-novae-zealandiae/> (Date website was queried)

### MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/zealandia-novae-zealandiae/>