

Hymenophyllum malingii

COMMON NAMES

filmy fern

SYNONYMS

Apteropteris malingii(Hook.) Copel.; *Sphaerocionium malingii* (Hook.) K. Iwats.; *Trichomanes malingii* Hook.

FAMILY

Hymenophyllaceae

AUTHORITY

Hymenophyllum malingii (Hook.) Mett.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Ferns

NVS CODE

HYMMAL

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 72

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island and South Island from Te Moehau and Mt Pirongia south throughout the western parts of the South Island, and also around Dunedin.

HABITAT

Montane to subalpine. Usually on the dead or dying trunks of kaikawaka (*Libocedrus bidwillii*) but also occasionally found on Hall's totara (***Podocarpus laetus***), rimu (*Dacrydium cupressinum*), *Halocarpus biformis*, beech (*Fuscospora* and *Lophozonia* spp.) and on moss covered boulders, rocks and cliff faces.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Epiphytic (rarely rupestral) fern forming dense to diffuse pendulous patches. **Rhizomes** long-creeping, gracile, rather brittle. **Stipes** 30–100 mm long, thin, brittle, not winged, densely covered in grey-red stellate hairs, rachises not winged. **Laminae** narrowly ovate or linear, 2–3-pinnate, greyish white to red-brown, 30–200 × 5–30 mm, all parts densely invested by stellate hairs, the adaxially grey and abaxially red-brown. **Ultimate segments** linear, rigid, tubular (round in cross-section), margins smooth. **Sori** terminating ultimate segments. Indusial flaps densely hairy.



Mt Te Aroha. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Mt Te Aroha. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

SIMILAR TAXA

Easily recognised by its peculiar preference for the trunks of usually dead or dying kaikawaka, narrow, grey-white to red-brown colour, and by the narrow, tubular ultimate segments which are densely covered in grey or red-brown stellate hairs.

LIFE CYCLE

Minute spores are wind dispersed (Thorsen et al., 2009).

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult—should not be removed from the wild

ETYMOLOGY

hymenophyllum: Membranous leaf, from the Greek humen and phullon

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet Prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (18 April 2011). Description adapted from Brownsey & Smith-Dodsworth (2000).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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

Thorsen MJ, Dickinson KJM, Seddon PJ. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285–309. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ppees.2009.06.001>.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/hymenophyllum-malingii/>

PDF DATE

11 August 2024