

Hymenophyllum villosum

COMMON NAMES

hairy filmy fern

SYNONYMS

Mecodium villosum (Colenso) Copel.

FAMILY

Hymenophyllaceae

AUTHORITY

Hymenophyllum villosum Colenso

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Ferns

NVS CODE

HYMVIL

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 72

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island, South Island, Stewart Island/Rakiura, Chatham Islands, Campbell Island/Motu Ihupuku, Auckland Islands. From Te Moehau and Mt Pirongia south becoming more common in the southern North Island. Widespread through the remaining islands.

HABITAT

Montane to subalpine in closed forest and subalpine scrub. Usually epiphytic, occasionally on rotting logs, mossy hummocks, rocks and cliff faces.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Terrestrial or epiphytic fern forming dense patches on suitable substrates. **Rhizomes** long-creeping, slender. Frond dark green, strongly aromatic, scent somewhat sanguinely metallic (especially when dry). **Stipes** 20–90 mm long, slender; stipes, rachises and laminae copiously covered in hairs, narrowly winged for most of length, black, wing often zig-zagged in upper portion. **Laminae** 50–180–(240) × 20–100 mm, narrowly ovate, elliptic to narrowly elliptic-deltoid, 3–4-pinnate, glabrescent. **Ultimate segments** 0.25–0.75 mm wide, oblong, margins entire though usually undulose especially toward distal portion of frond. **Sori** on short branches in distal portion of frond, many borne on each primary pinna. **Indusium** narrowly ovoid to ellipsoid, abaxially smooth; indusial flaps entire; receptacle included. (Description adapted from Brownsey & Smith-Dodsworth (2000)).



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



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

SIMILAR TAXA

Closely allied to *Hymenophyllum sanguinolentum* from which it differs by its smaller over all dimensions, more finely divided fronds with narrower ultimate segments; by the copiously hairy stipes, rachises and laminae; and by the abaxially smooth rather than crested surfaces of the indusia. In some parts of its range it can be found growing syntopically with *Hymenophyllum sanguinolentum*, whilst in other locations, like the Chatham Islands it grows in apparent isolation from *H. sanguinolentum* which is not known there.

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 (21 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

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

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

MORE INFORMATION

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

PDF DATE

17 September 2024