

Adiantum fulvum

COMMON NAMES

maidenhair

BIOSTATUS

Native

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Ferns

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tufted, terrestrial fern. **Rhizomes** short-creeping, c. 1.5–2.0 mm diameter. **Fron**ds spreading, dark green, concolorous, to 500 mm long. **Stipe** to 150 mm long, clad in short setose hairs. **Lamina** 150–350 × 100–250 mm, ovate to broadly ovate, 2–3-pinnate at base and 1-pinnate above; rachises flexuous, glossy, covered in short setose hairs. **Pinnules** attached by a short stalk on one corner, oblong to oblong falcate, curved acroscopically at apices, distal margins irregularly lobed, proximal margins smooth, adaxially glabrous, abaxially covered in sparse to dense short, setose hairs. **Sori** 1–7–(10) along distal margins, one per lobe; soral flaps subreniform to reniform, glabrous, ± immersed in the lobe.

SIMILAR TAXA

Easily confused with *Adiantum cunninghamii* with which it sometimes grows and from which it differs by its dark green rather than glaucescent fronds, and by the hairy stipes, rachises and undersides of the pinnules. *Adiantum viridescens* is also superficially similar it can be distinguished from *A. fulvum* by the narrower often sickle-shaped, shiny, dark green, glabrous pinnules.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island, South Island, Chatham Islands. From Te Pahi south to the Taranaki and Hawke's Bay thence rather local reaching a southern limit on Banks Peninsula.

HABITAT

Coastal to lower montane in closed forest on clay banks, amongst boulders, along stream sides and in moderately open sites on the forest floor.

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

THREATS

Not Threatened but often rather uncommon over large parts of its range.

DETAILED TAXONOMY

FAMILY

Pteridaceae

AUTHORITY

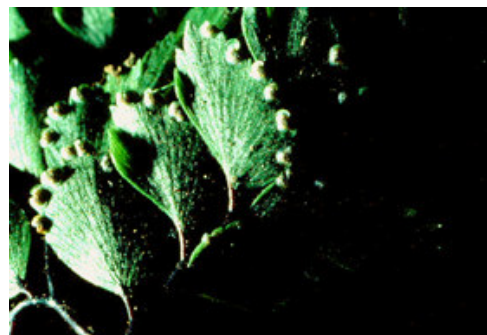
Adiantum fulvum Raoul

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes



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ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

ECOLOGY

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Slow but once established easy. Flourishes in deep shade, planted in a moist, well drained, fertile soil. Best grown from spores which must be sown fresh. Spores may take several years to produce plants.

OTHER INFORMATION

ETYMOLOGY

adiantum: From the Greek a- 'without, lacking' and diantos 'moistened', the fronds of this fern are supposed to remain dry after submersion in water

fulvum: Tawny yellow

NVS CODE

ADIFUL

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 116

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

REFERENCING AND CITATIONS

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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>.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet including description prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (Updated 4 May 2011).

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/adiantum-fulvum/>

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12 October 2024