

Lygodium articulatum

COMMON NAME

mangemange, bushman's mattress, makamaka

SYNONYMS

Lygodium gracilescens Colenso

FAMILY

Lygodiaceae

AUTHORITY

Lygodium articulatum A.Rich.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Ferns

NVS CODE

LYGART

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = c.140

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island from North Cape (Whiriwhiri Stream) south to Marokopa and the Bay of Plenty.

HABITAT

Coastal and lowland to lower montan forest. Sometimes in gumland scrub.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Climbing fern. **Rhizomes** creeping, hairy. **Fron**d glabrous, high climbing. **Stipe and rachises** of indeterminate length, twisting and climbing to tops of surrounding vegetation, tough, wiry, pliant. **Sterile and fertile pinnae** markedly dimorphic, veins free. **Midribs of sterile pinnae** forked 2–3× ending in oblong secondary pinnae 40–100 × 5–20 mm, with rounded apices and smooth margins, adaxially bright green, abaxially glaucescent. **Midribs of fertile pinnae** forked many times, ending in fan-shaped lobule segments 5–10 mm long. **Sporangia** borne in spikes on the margins of lobule segments, each protected by an outgrowth of the lamina margin. (Description modified from Brownsey & Smith-Dodsworth (2000)).



Trounson Kauri Park. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 09/12/1982, Licence: CC BY.



Waitakere, August. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

SIMILAR TAXA

Easily recognised by the climbing twisting fronds arising from a long creeping rhizome, and which are usually interwoven into a dense tangle. These interwoven tangles make an excellent mattress and many a trumper has used these when caught out in the northern forests for the night. The only problem is that they are also a favoured home of tree wētā, as many-a-trumper-caught-out-in-the-northern-forest-for-the-night comes to appreciate!

FLOWERING

Not applicable - spore producing

FLOWER COLOURS

No flowers

FRUITING

Not applicable—spore producing

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Once established *Lygodium articulatum* is easy to maintain, has rapid growth and soon forms an attractive “tangle” on a suitable host tree. It is not fussy about soil type but doesn't flourish in poorly drained soils, and should be planted in a partially shaded site where the fronds can grow up into the sun.

ETYMOLOGY

lygodium: From the Greek lukos (wolf) and podion (foot)

WHERE TO BUY

Occasionally available from specialist native plant nurseries

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (10 March 2011). Description modified 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 pp.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Lygodium articulatum* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/lygodium-articulatum/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/lygodium-articulatum/>