

# Abrodictyum elongatum

## COMMON NAMES

bristle fern

## BIOSTATUS

Native

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Ferns

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Terrestrial tufted fern. **Rhizomes** short, stout, erect, bearing numerous dark brown hairs. **Fronde**s submembranous, ± cartilaginous, dark olive-green, adaxially glossy, surfaces often covered in epiphyllous liverworts and mosses. **Stipes** 50–200 mm long. **Rachises** winged only near apices. **Laminae** 60–150 × deltoid, 3-pinnate. **Primary and secondary pinnae** overlapping, stalked; ultimate segments broad, deeply toothed, the veins forking several times in each. **Sori** sessile, borne in notches of lamina segments, several on each primary pinnae. **Indusia** tubular, mouth slightly flared, receptacle exserted.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Easily recognised by the erect rhizome, deltoid, dark olive-green fronds (which often support epiphyllous bryophytes), and by the conspicuous tubular indusia bearing brown hair-like, bristly well exserted receptacles.

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island, South Island, Chatham Islands. Scarce on the Chatham Islands where it is known only from Chatham Island (Rēkohu).

## HABITAT

Coastal to montane in closed and open forest and gumland scrub. Usually on semi-shaded mossy clay banks, in overhangs on rock, soil, clay or along stream side banks. Often in rather dry or seasonally dry, semi-shaded sites. This species appears to resent poorly drained habitats.

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

## DETAILED TAXONOMY

## FAMILY

Hymenophyllaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Abrodictyum elongatum* (A.Cunn.) Ebihara et K.Iwats.

## SYNONYMS

*Trichomanes elongatum* A.Cunn., *Selenodesmium elongatum* (A.Cunn.) Copel.

## TAXONOMIC NOTES

NZPCN now follows Ebihara et al. (2006) in recognising *Abrodictyum* as distinct from *Trichomanes*. Although Brownsey & Perrie (2016) rejected this idea, the generic segregation was adopted by the Pteridophyte Phylogeny Group (2016) and is now widely followed throughout the world.



Lowry Kauri Forest, Glen Murray, October 1988. Photographer: Peter J. de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Long Bay, Coromandel. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## ENDEMIC TAXON

No

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## ECOLOGY

### PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult—should not be removed from the wild.

## OTHER INFORMATION

### ETYMOLOGY

**abrodictyum**: From the Greek habros 'delicate', 'pretty' and diktyon 'net', literally "delicate net"

**elongatum**: Elongate

### NVS CODE

ABRELO

### PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

## REFERENCING AND CITATIONS

### REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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

Brownsey PJ, Perrie LR. 2016. Hymenophyllaceae. In: Breitwieser I, Heenan PB, Wilton AD. Flora of New Zealand - Ferns and Lycophytes. Fascicle 15. Manaaki Whenua Press, Lincoln, NZ. <https://doi.org/10.7931/B1QP4Z>.

Ebihara A, Dubuisson, J-Y, Iwatsuki K, Hennequin S, Ito M. 2006. A taxonomic revision of the Hymenophyllaceae. *Blumea* 51: 2–57. <https://doi.org/10.3767/000651906X622210>.

PPG 1: The Pteridophyte Phylogeny Group 2016. A community-derived classification for extant lycophytes and ferns. *Journal of Systematics and Evolution* 54: 563–603. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jse.12229>.

### ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (21 April 2011). Description adapted from Brownsey & Smith-Dodsworth (2000).

### NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

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

### MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/abrodictyum-elongatum/>

### PDF DATE

11 March 2025