

# Hymenophyllum flexuosum

## COMMON NAME

filmy fern

## SYNONYMS

Mecodium flexuosum (A. Cunn.) Copel.; Hymenophyllum australe var. flexuosum (A.Cunn.) C.Chr.

## FAMILY

Hymenophyllaceae

## AUTHORITY

Hymenophyllum flexuosum (A. Cunn.) Copel.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Ferns

## NVS CODE

HYMFLE

## 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, Chatham Islands.

## HABITAT

Locally common in coastal to montane closed forest (coastal to montane in the North and Chatham Islands, confined to the lowland in the South Island). Usually found on boulders or rocks along waterways and in deeply shaded, rubble slopes but also frequently epiphytic on the plank roots and buttresses of pukatea (*Laurelia novae-zelandiae*) and maire tawake (*Syzygium maire*) in riparian forest. In the northern part of its range it is occasionally found growing with *Hymenophyllum australe*.



Franz Josef. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 19/04/1981, Licence: CC BY.



Stokes Valley, Lower Hutt. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 16/08/2006, Licence: CC BY.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Terrestrial or low epiphytic fern forming diffuse patches. **Rhizomes** long-creeping, thin, brittle. **Fronds** often widely spaced along rhizomes or in widely spaced aggregations. **Stipes** 30–110 mm long, slender, glabrous; stipes and rachises with a prominent broad, wavy-undulose, crisped wing running almost to stipe base. **Laminae** ovate 3–4-pinnate, 60–300 × 30–140 mm, bright green to yellow-green, glabrous. **Ultimate segments** oblong, margins smooth. **Sori** terminating ultimate segments, not sunken in lamina, solitary or paired, with many on each primary pinna. Indusial flaps with smooth margins. (Description adapted from Brownsey & Smith-Dodsworth (2000)).

## SIMILAR TAXA

As both *Hymenophyllum flexuosum* and *H. pluviatile* grow together they are most likely to be confused. *Hymenophyllum flexuosum* differs from *H. pluviatile* by having lighter green, consistently crisped and crinkly fronds, with the stipe wing prominently crinkled. *Hymenophyllum australe* is only superficially similar, and its easily distinguished from *H. flexuosum* by its dark green-black strongly deltoid fronds, less distinctly crisped stipe wing and preference for rheophytic habitats.

## 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

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

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

## MORE INFORMATION

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