

Cheilanthes sieberi subsp. sieberi

COMMON NAME

rock fern

SYNONYMS

Cheilanthes humilis (G. Forst.) P.S. Green; *Cheilanthes tenuifolia* sensu Allan (1961)

FAMILY

Pteridaceae

AUTHORITY

Cheilanthes sieberi Kunze subsp. *sieberi*

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Ferns

NVS CODE

CHESIE

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 174

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. New Zealand: Manawatāwhi / Three Kings Islands, North Island, South Island. Also Australia and New Caledonia

HABITAT

Coastal to montane in dry, rocky habitats with only sparse or no vegetation cover. Often found growing with *Pellaea calidirupium*. More common in the drier eastern parts of the country.



Lake Kohangatera, Wellington. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 04/10/2008, Licence: CC BY.



Lake Kohangatera, Wellington. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 04/10/2008, Licence: CC BY.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Terrestrial or rupestral fern. **Fron**ds up to 350 × 35 mm; stipe and rachis dark brown or red-brown, glabrous or with sparse to moderately dense hairs (to 10 cells, often twisted and glandular), densest at stipe-rachis-rachilla junction, with some scales. **Lamina** linear-lanceolate or ovate, 3-pinnate at base, 2-pinnate for most of length; larger pinnae triangular-ovate; pinnules lanceolate ovate or elliptic; margins deeply incised, inrolled; adaxially glabrous, abaxially glabrous rarely with a few, sparse hairs. **Spo**res spherical, verrucose, with varying amounts of globular, branched or reticulate deposits; either black, ridged, 49–73 µm diameter and 16 per sporangium, or brown, trilete, 36–52 µm diameter, and 32 per sporangium.

SIMILAR TAXA

Distinguished from *Cheilanthes distans* with which it often grows by the the glabrous (or nearly glabrous) primary pinnae.

LIFE CYCLE

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown in a dry sunny site. An excellent pot plant. In ideal conditions it soon self establishes.

ETYMOLOGY

cheilanthes: From the Greek kheilos 'lip' and anthos 'flower', referring to the indusium

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (Updated 3 May 2011). Description adapted from Chambers & Farrant (1998).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Chambers TC, Farrant PA. 1998. *Cheilanthes*. *Flora of Australia 48, Ferns Gymnosperms and allied groups*: 271–286. ABRS/CSIRO Victoria, Australia.

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

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<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/cheilanthes-sieberi-subsp-sieberi/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/cheilanthes-sieberi-subsp-sieberi/>