

Dicksonia lanata subsp. hispida

COMMON NAME

stumpy tree fern

SYNONYMS

Dicksonia lanata var. *hispida* Colenso

FAMILY

Dicksoniaceae

AUTHORITY

Dicksonia lanata subsp. *hispida* (Colenso) Perrie et Brownsey

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Ferns

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 130

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Small tree fern with a short trunk and pale brown-stalked dark-green stiff leaves to 2 m long inhabiting kauri forests. Trunk to 2 m tall, sparsely covered by old leaves. Leaf stems covered in small hairs (lens needed). Sporangia in small capsules at the edge of fronds undersides.

DISTRIBUTION

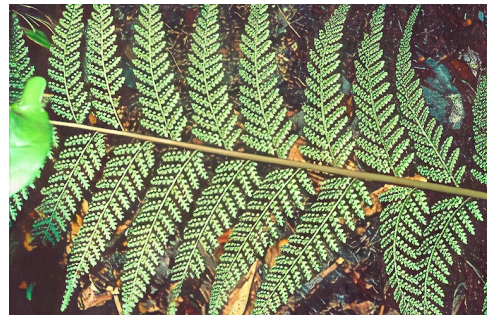
Endemic. New Zealand: North Island (Te Pahi south to the Bombay Hills and Tararu Valley, Coromandel Peninsula).

HABITAT

Virtually confined to kauri (*Agathis australis*) forest where it is often the characteristic understorey fern, growing with *Astelia trinervia* and *Gahnia xanthocarpa*. Also occurs in cloud forest in some of the western ranges of Northland.

SIMILAR TAXA

Dicksonia lanata subsp. *lanata* from which it is most easily distinguished by the presence of a small trunk which may be up to 2 m tall. However, the fronds are also usually dark green rather than glaucous green. There are other minor cryptic characters which also separate the two varieties.



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



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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from spores. Can be grown from rooted pieces but rather slow. Prefers a deep, cool soil enriched with leaf litter. Slow to establish.

ETYMOLOGY

dicksonia: After James Dickson (1738-1822), British botanist and nurseryman

lanata: Woolly

hispida: Roughly hairy

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

NOTES ON TAXONOMY

Dicksonia lanata subsp. *hispida* is probably worthy of species rank. In the upper Tararu Valley, Coromandel Peninsula both subspecies are virtually sympatric.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/dicksonia-lanata-subsp-hispida/>