

Hymenophyllum demissum

COMMON NAME

drooping filmy fern, Irirangi, piripiri

SYNONYMS

Mecodium demissum (G. Forst.) Copel.; *Hymenophyllum australe* var. *aucklandicum* (Bosch) C.Chr.; *Sphaerocionium demissum* (G.Forst.) C.Presl; *Trichomanes demissum* G.Forst.; *Hymenophyllum aucklandicum* Bosch;

FAMILY

Hymenophyllaceae

AUTHORITY

Hymenophyllum demissum (G. Forst.) Sw.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Ferns

NVS CODE

HYMDEM

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: Kermadec Islands (Raoul Island), North Island, South Island, Stewart Island/Rakiura, Chatham Islands, Auckland Islands. Widespread except for the drier parts of the eastern South Island.

HABITAT

Coastal to montane in forest. Usually terrestrial where it typically forms dense carpets on the ground, on banks or on rotting logs. Also epiphytic, and then found mostly on the basal trunks of forest trees and tree ferns. Sometimes found in forest growing over boulders, rocks and on cliff faces.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

UPL: Obligate Upland

Rarely is a hydrophyte, almost always in uplands (non-wetlands).



Sori in pairs on ends of ultimate segments. Wellington. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 08/12/1984, Licence: CC BY.



Drooping filmy fern. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Licence: CC BY.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Terrestrial or epiphytic fern forming large patches made up of numerous densely (more rarely diffuse) packed fronds. **Rhizomes** long-creeping, slender. **Stipes** 40–170 mm long, stout, pliant, wiry, glabrous usually not-winged, if winged then wing minute; rachises narrowly winged throughout. **Laminae** elliptic, ovate or narrowly ovate, 3–4-pinnate, 70–250 × 30–150 mm, pale green to dark green, glabrous. **Ultimate segments** oblong, margins smooth. **Sori** numerous on the terminal ends of the ultimate segments of the primary pinna. **Indusial flap margins** smooth or minutely toothed. (Description adapted from Brownsey & Smith-Dodsworth (2000)).

SIMILAR TAXA

Easily recognised by the extremely wiry usually un-winged stipe, large glabrous fronds, smooth-margined pinna segments, and when fertile by the numerous, narrow, paired sori. When dry the fronds of this species rarely curl up.

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

demissum: Drooping; from the latin demissus; referring to the leaves when the plant is perched on trees

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet Prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (17 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

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

MORE INFORMATION

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