

# Hymenophyllum malingii

## COMMON NAME

filmy fern

## SYNONYMS

*Apteropteris malingii*(Hook.) Copel.; *Sphaerocionium malingii* (Hook.) K. Iwats.; *Trichomanes malingii* Hook.

## FAMILY

Hymenophyllaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Hymenophyllum malingii* (Hook.) Mett.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Ferns

## NVS CODE

HYMMAL

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 72

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island and South Island from Te Moehau and Mt Pirongia south throughout the western parts of the South Island, and also around Dunedin.

## HABITAT

Montane to subalpine. Usually on the dead or dying trunks of kaikawaka (*Libocedrus bidwillii*) but also occasionally found on Hall's totara (***Podocarpus laetus***), rimu (*Dacrydium cupressinum*), *Halocarpus biformis*, beech (*Fuscospora* and *Lophozonia* spp.) and on moss covered boulders, rocks and cliff faces.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Epiphytic (rarely rupestral) fern forming dense to diffuse pendulous patches. **Rhizomes** long-creeping, gracile, rather brittle. **Stipes** 30–100 mm long, thin, brittle, not winged, densely covered in grey-red stellate hairs, rachises not winged. **Laminae** narrowly ovate or linear, 2–3-pinnate, greyish white to red-brown, 30–200 × 5–30 mm, all parts densely invested by stellate hairs, the adaxially grey and abaxially red-brown. **Ultimate segments** linear, rigid, tubular (round in cross-section), margins smooth. **Sori** terminating ultimate segments. Indusial flaps densely hairy.



Mt Te Aroha. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Mt Te Aroha. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

### **SIMILAR TAXA**

Easily recognised by its peculiar preference for the trunks of usually dead or dying kaikawaka, narrow, grey-white to red-brown colour, and by the narrow, tubular ultimate segments which are densely covered in grey or red-brown stellate hairs.

### **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**

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

### **MORE INFORMATION**

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