

Hymenophyllum pulcherrimum

COMMON NAME

tufted filmy fern

SYNONYMS

Mecodium pulcherrimum (Colenso) Copel.

FAMILY

Hymenophyllaceae

AUTHORITY

Hymenophyllum pulcherrimum Colenso

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Ferns

NVS CODE

HYMPUL

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 22

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island (from Te Moehau and Mt Pirongia south), South Island, Stewart Island/Rakiura, Auckland Islands.

HABITAT

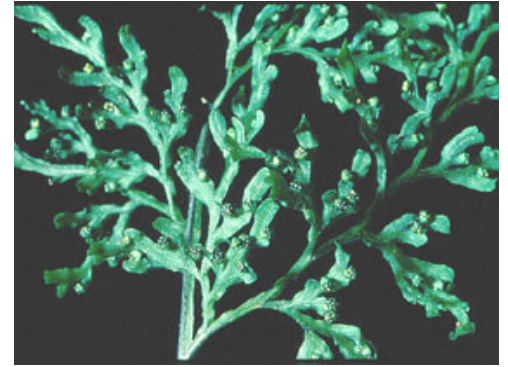
Lowland to montane (mostly montane in the northern part of its range), in closed forest. Usually epiphytic, rarely found growing on rocks.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tufted mostly epiphytic fern. **Rhizomes** erect, short-creeping, sparsely to densely covered in red, bristly hairs. **Stipes** 30–150 mm long, rather stout, glabrescent; stipes and rachises winged almost to base, wing thickness variable for entire length. **Fronde**s pendulous, pale green, glabrous. **Laminae** 100–400–(600) × 40–150 mm. ovate, narrowly elliptic to elliptic, 3–4-pinnate. **Ultimate segments** oblong, undulose (weakly to strongly so), margins smooth. **Sori** arising on short branches near the ends of the ultimate segments; many on each primary pinna. Involucre ovoid to ellipsoid; indusial flaps entire.

SIMILAR TAXA

Easily recognised by the tufted growth habit, large pendulous pale green, glabrous, crinkly (wavy) fronds, and by the smooth margins of the stipe and rachis wing and smooth pinnae margins.



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



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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

pulcherrimum: Very beautiful; from the Latin pulcherrimus

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (20 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 pulcherrimum* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.

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

MORE INFORMATION

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