

Paesia scaberula

COMMON NAME

lace fern, ring fern, scented fern, pig fern

SYNONYMS

Pteris scaberula A.Rich., *Allosorus scaberulus* (A.Rich.) C.Presl, *Ornithopteris scaberula* (A.Rich.) J.Sm., *Pteris microphylla* A.Cunn.

FAMILY

Dennstaedtiaceae

AUTHORITY

Paesia scaberula (A.Rich.) Kuhn

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Ferns

NVS CODE

PAESCA

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 52

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: Manawatāwhi / Three Kings Islands, North Island, South Island, Stewart Island/Rakiura and Chatham Islands.

HABITAT

Coastal to montane. An often common fern of open or disturbed ground, rough pasture, grassland or reverting farmland—where it often is considered a serious pest.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACU: Facultative Upland

Occasionally is a hydrophyte but usually occurs in uplands (non-wetlands).



Coromandel. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Terrestrial ferns. **Rhizome** long-creeping, much branched, stiff and somewhat brittle, 1–2 mm diameter, chestnut-brown, densely clad in slender red-brown, bristly hairs. **Stipes** 50–400 × 1–2 mm, stiff, muricate to almost smooth, densely clad in slender, bristly, red-brown hairs (especially near base) and short, glandular, yellow hairs in upper portion. **Rhachis** strongly to slightly zig-zagged, strongly muricate to smooth. **Laminae** 2–3–4-pinnate, 100–800 × 50–350 mm, deltoid to ovate or elliptic, stiffly coriaceous to subcoriaceous, adaxially yellow-green to yellow, abaxially, covered by numerous, short, glandular hairs, midribs bearing bristly red-brown hairs; veins obscure, free. **Pinnae** finely dissected, primary pinnae shortly stalked, 70–200 × 30–50 mm, ovate to lanceolate, acuminate. **Secondary pinnae** shortly stalked, up to 25 × 10 mm, lanceolate. **Segments** decurrent, pinnatisect to almost pinnate, up to 5 × 2 mm, narrow, sharply toothed or incised, often apiculate. **Sori** usually copious, extending along both margins of segments, but not reaching base or apex; true indusium delicate, often vestigial.

SIMILAR TAXA

Easily distinguished by the yellow-green to yellow, glandular sticky, finely dissected, fragrant fronds, zig-zagged rachises and elongated marginal sori, protected by an inrolled, scarious lamina on the outside of the ultimate segments and a membranous (sometimes almost vestigial) indusium on the inside of the ultimate segments.

FLOWERING

Not applicable—spore producing

FLOWER COLOURS

No flowers

FRUITING

Not applicable—spore producing

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

A weedy fern that often self establishes in gardens. Prefers a sunny, open situation and is tolerant of a range of soil types.

ETYMOLOGY

paesia: After the Portuguese Duke fernando Dias Paes lele, commander in South America in the 17th Century

scaberula: A little roughened; from the Latin scaber, leaves

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (8 November 2012). Description adapted from Allan (1961) and Brownsey & Smith-Dodsworth (2000).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan HH. 1961. Flora of New Zealand, Volume I. Indigenous Tracheophyta: Psilopsida, Lycopsida, Filicopsida, Gymnospermae, Dicotyledones. Government Printer, Wellington, NZ. 1085 p.

Brownsey PJ, Smith-Dodsworth JC. 2000. New Zealand Ferns and Allied Plants. David Bateman, Auckland, NZ. 168 p.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/paesia-scaberula/>