

Pseudolycopodium densum

COMMON NAME

clubmoss

SYNONYMS

Lycopodium deuterodensum Herter; *Lepidotis densa* Rothm.; *Lycopodium densum* Labill.

FAMILY

Lycopodiaceae

AUTHORITY

Pseudolycopodium densum (Rothm.) Holub

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lycophytes (clubmosses, selaginella, quillworts)

NVS CODE

LYCDEU

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 68

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. New Zealand: North Island (from North Cape to Lake Taupo and nearby river catchments), Chatham Islands. Also Australia and New Caledonia.

HABITAT

Coastal and lowland forests in gumland scrub, on forest margins and ridgelines (especially in kauri forest), or in open clay pans within tall forest.



Tongariro River. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 11/09/1985, Licence: CC BY.



Tongariro River. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 11/09/1985, Licence: CC BY.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Rhizome creeping, to 3 m long, clothed in slightly spreading scale leaves. **Branchlet systems** erect, 0.1–1.0 m tall. **Leaves** spiral to subwhorled, imbricate, appressed or spreading, adnate, dimorphic, green, yellow-green to yellow. **Leaves of sterile branchlets** linear-lanceolate, attenuate, 2.0–4.5 mm long, spreading. **Leaves of sporogenous branchlets** ovate-lanceolate, attenuate, 1.0–2.5 mm long; margins membranous, translucent, ciliate around the base. **Leaves of central axis** (sporogenous and sterile) similar to those of sterile branchlets, but appressed, 4.5–6.0 mm long. **Strobili** terminal on ultimate branchlets, 10–35 mm long, solitary. **Sporophylls** imbricate, acute; margins membranous, fimbriate. (Description adapted from Chinnock (1998) and Brownsey & Smith-Dodsworth (2000)).

SIMILAR TAXA

None. Easily recognised by the stout, erect, aerial branches which resemble a small conifer. *Pseudolycopodium densum* could possibly be confused with *Austrolycopodium fastigiatum* except that, *A. fastigiatum* is a species of montane habitats (it is never found growing with *Pseudolycopodium densum*), and the leaves on the branchlets of fertile specimens are not appressed as they are in *P. densum*.

FLOWERING

Not applicable (spore producing)

FLOWER COLOURS

No flowers

FRUITING

Not applicable (spore producing)

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Can be grown with some difficulty. Best results have been achieved with plants grown on untreated saw dust.

WHERE TO BUY

Not Commercially Available

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 17 March 2011. Description adapted from Chinnock (1998) and 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.

Chinnock RJ. 1998. Lycopodiaceae. *Flora of Australia 48, Ferns Gymnosperms and allied groups*: 66–85. ABR/CSIRO Victoria, Australia.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Pseudolycopodium densum* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.

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

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/pseudolycopodium-densum/>