

Sticherus urceolatus

COMMON NAME

umbrella fern

FAMILY

Gleicheniaceae

AUTHORITY

Sticherus urceolatus M.Garrett & Kantvilas

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Ferns

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: DP, RR, SO

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous to New Zealand. **South Island:** recorded from the Takākā area and the Denniston Plateau. Appears to have been in Fiordland (Indian Island) in the past (Brownsey *et al.* 2013).

There has been some confusion over the distribution of *Sticherus* species in New Zealand. Perrie (2013) stated: “Populations of *Sticherus tener* and *Sticherus urceolatus* in the northern South Island had previously been mistakenly attributed to *Sticherus flabellatus*. We now believe that *Sticherus flabellatus* does not occur in the South Island, but it is common in the northern North Island.”

Also found in Tasmania.

HABITAT

Recorded from shallow sandstone caves, under overhangs on steep, north-facing cliffs, and along streamsides, track cuttings and roadsides, and in more open areas on sloping river banks, at 300–600 m a.s.l. Associated species included *Gleichenia dicarpa*, *Empodisma minus* and *Sticherus tener*, with surrounding vegetation including *Halocarpus bidwillii*, *Quintinia serrata*, and *Leptospermum scoparium*. (see Brownsey *et al.* 2013).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

According to Brownsey *et al.* (2013) “*Sticherus urceolatus* has fronds that are held partially upright in the form of a fan. There is a somewhat narrow angle (c. 50°) between paired proximal pinnae. The ultimate leaflet is somewhat longer than the proximal costa (mean ratio 5.7 : 1). The proximal costa either lacks, or has only one or two, leafy ultimate segments. The ultimate leaflet is narrowly elliptic in outline with the segments arising at 55–65° to the costa. The segments of the ultimate leaflets are longest near the middle, 15–27 mm long, 23 mm wide, entire or sometimes minutely serrate near the apices, and green on the undersides. There are occasional, narrow, fimbriate, brown scales along the costae, and hair-like scales on the undersurfaces. Spores measure 38–43 µm by 19–23 µm (four samples from Stockton and one from Rangihaeata, Takaka).”

SIMILAR TAXA

Sticherus tener is similar. See Brownsey *et al.* (2013) for a comparison of features.



Onekaka ex Rangihaeata Oct 13. Photographer: Simon Walls, Date taken: 01/10/2013, Licence: CC BY-NC.



In cultivation, ex Denniston Plateau. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken: 18/11/2017, Licence: CC BY-NC.

THREATS

Threatened by opencast mining on the Denniston Plateau (Perrie 2013).

ETYMOLOGY

sticherus: In rows; from the greek sticheres; arrangement of the spore clusters

urceolatus: From the latin urceolatus (urn-shaped), a reference to the vase-shaped habit of the pinnae when growing in an exposed position.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Melissa Hutchison (19 November 2022). Features section copied from Brownsey *et al.* (2013).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Brownsey PJ, Ewans R, Rance B, Walls S, Perrie LR. 2013. A review of the fern genus *Sticherus* (Gleicheniaceae) in New Zealand with confirmation of two new species records. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 51(2): 104-115.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/0028825X.2013.773917>

Perrie L. 2013. Would you mine a rare population? Blog on the Museum of New Zealand/Te Papa Tongarewa website. <https://blog.tepapa.govt.nz/2013/04/21/would-you-mine-a-rare-population/>

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/sticherus-urceolatus/>