

Zealandia novae-zealandiae

COMMON NAME

mountain hound's tongue fern

SYNONYMS

Phymatosorus novae-zealandiae (Baker) Pic. Serm.; Phymatodes novae-zealandiae (Barker) Pic. Serm.; Polypodium novae-zealandiae Baker in Hook.; Microsorium novae-zealandiae (Baker) Copel.;

FAMILY

Polypodiaceae

AUTHORITY

Zealandia novae-zealandiae (Baker) Testo et A.R.Field

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Ferns

NVS CODE

MICNOV

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 74

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Sparse

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island from about Maunaupaki (Camels Hump) and Table Mountain (Kauaeranga Valley) and Mt Karioi south to the southern Tararua Ranges.

HABITAT

An epiphytic species of montane to subalpine (600–1400 m a.s.l.) cloud forest and scrub. Very rarely found growing on rocks or logs on the forest floor.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

UPL: Obligate Upland

Rarely is a hydrophyte, almost always in uplands (non-wetlands).



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



Holdsworth, Tararua Forest Park. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 08/02/2008, Licence: CC BY.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Rhizomes long creeping, 5–10 mm diameter, covered in erect, orange-brown (rust-coloured) hyaline scales. **Stipes** 100–300 mm long, pale brown, wiry and pliant. **Fron**d lamina pinnate, 100–1200 × 70–350 mm, dark green or yellow green, upper surface glossy, undersides dull and paler in colour, ovate, coriaceous, more or less glabrous. **Pinn**ae in 3–30 pairs, 70–180 × 5–15 mm, long tapering to obtuse or subacute apices, bases adnate, margins smooth or undulose. **Sori** conspicuous, orange, positioned near margins of pinna.

SIMILAR TAXA

Readily distinguished from *Dendroconche scandens* and *Zealandia pustulata* subsp. *pustulata* by its restriction to North Island montane cloud forests; larger, narrower, non-fragrant fronds, and by the distinctive erect, orange-brown, hyaline rhizome scales. The genus *Zealandia* differs from *Dendroconche* by the usually pruinose rhizomes and holoepiphytic rather than hemiepiphytic growth habit, absence of laterally inserted climbing roots and sori which are deeply impressed in the lamina (Testo et al. 2019).

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult—should not be removed from the wild

THREATS

Not Threatened. A fairly widespread endemic of upper montane and cloud forests. It can be locally very common.

ETYMOLOGY

novae-zealandiae: Of New Zealand

TAXONOMIC NOTES

The treatment of Testo et al. (2019) in which the New Zealand ferns previously treated by New Zealand authors as *Microsorium* (see Brownsey & Smith-Dodsworth 2000) are segregated into two genera, *Dendroconche* and *Zealandia* is followed here.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (9 January 2005). 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.
Testo WL, Field AR, Sessa EB, Sundue M. 2019. Phylogenetic and morphological analyses support the resurrection of *Dendroconche* and the recognition of two new genera in Polypodiaceae Subfamily Microsoroideae. *Systematic Botany* 44(4): 1–16. <https://doi.org/10.1600/036364419X15650157948607>.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/zealandia-novae-zealandiae/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/zealandia-novae-zealandiae/>