

# Austrolycopodium fastigiatum

## COMMON NAME

alpine clubmoss, mountain clubmoss

## SYNONYMS

*Lycopodium fastigiatum* R.Br.; *Lycopodium clavatum* var. *fastigiatum* (R.Br.) Benth.; *Lycopodium curvifolium* Colenso; *Lycopodium decurrens* Colenso; *Lycopodium scopulosum* Colenso; *Austrolycopodium fastigiatum* (R.Br.) Holub; *Lycopodium arcitenentis* Herter; *Lycopodium cochinchense* Herter ex Nessel

## FAMILY

Lycopodiaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Austrolycopodium fastigiatum* (R.Br.) Holub

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

No

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lycophytes (clubmosses, selaginella, quillworts)

## NVS CODE

LYCFAS

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 60

## 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 Te Moehau and Mt Pirongia south), South Island and Stewart Island/Rakiura, Chatham Islands, Antipodes Islands, Campbell Island/Motu Ihupuku, and Auckland Islands. Also Australia.

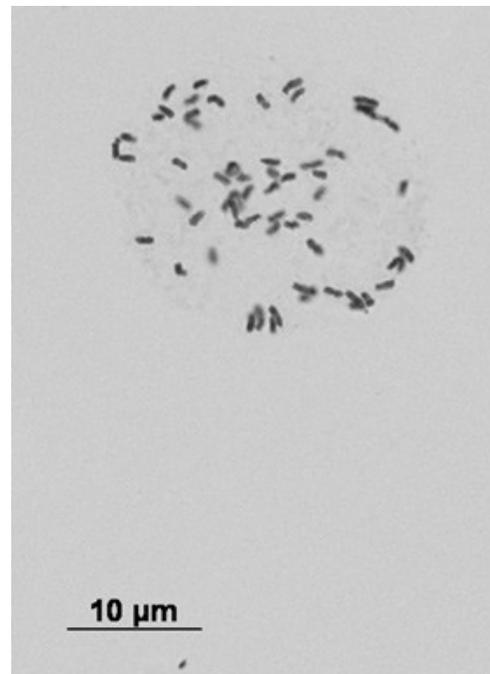
## HABITAT

Coastal to alpine (in northern part of North Island range strictly montane) in frost flats, subalpine and geothermal scrub, alpine herbfield, grassland and peat bogs.

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FAC: Facultative

Commonly occurs as either a hydrophyte or non-hydrophyte (non-wetlands).



In cult. Chromosomes 2n = 60. Oct 2008.  
Photographer: Brian G. Murray, Licence: CC BY-NC.



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

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

**Rhizome** mostly buried, creeping, bearing scattered, appressed scale-leave. **Aerial branches** erect (occasionally prostrate with branchlets upturned), rigid 30–400 mm tall, much-branched. **Leaves** spirally arranged, imbricate, decurrent, 3–5 × 0.6–1.0 mm, linear to linear-lanceolate, incurved, green, yellow-green or orange (especially when in exposed situations). **Strobili** erect, terminal, projecting above the foliage, 20–70–(100) mm long, 1–3 aggregated on a common peduncle with widely scattered appressed scale leaves. **Sporophylls** imbricate, peltate, lanceolate, pale to dark brown or somewhat orange, with paler membranous margins. (Description adapted from Chinnock (1998) and Brownsey & Smith-Dodsworth (2000)).

## SIMILAR TAXA

A very distinctive species that is likely to be confused only with *Pseudolycopodium densum* which is a more northerly occurring species inhabiting lower elevations and which differs from *Austrolycopodium fastigiatum* by the leaves of fertile aerial stems being tightly appressed, and by the sessile (i.e. without stalks) strobili.

## FLOWERING

N.A.

## FLOWER COLOURS

No flowers

## FRUITING

N.A.

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult. Should not be removed from the wild.

## ETYMOLOGY

**fastigiatum**: Fastigate; from the Latin fastigium; branches lying close together, parallel and erect

## WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 20 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. ABRS/CSIRO Victoria, Australia.

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

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

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/austrolycopodium-fastigiatum/>