

Hymenophyllum minimum

COMMON NAME

filmy fern

SYNONYMS

Mecodium minimum (A. Rich.) Copel.; Hymenophyllum pygmaeum
Colenso

FAMILY

Hymenophyllaceae

AUTHORITY

Hymenophyllum minimum A. Rich.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Ferns

NVS CODE

HYMMIN

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n=72

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island (from the upper Kauaeranga Valley (near Thames) and Mt Pirongia south), South Island, Stewart Island/Rakiura, Chatham Islands, Antipodes Islands, Auckland Islands.

HABITAT

Coastal to montane (usually montane in northern part of range). A common species of shaded rock faces, cliffs, overhangs, and boulder and talus slopes—sometimes in places subjected to salt spray. Often in rather open sites and in places that often dry out for protracted periods of time. Very rarely found growing as an epiphyte.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Diminutive, compact, dense turf-forming fern. **Rhizomes** long-creeping, very slender and thin, much branched and interwoven. **Fronds** bright emerald green. **Stipes** 3–8 mm long, very thin; stipes and rachises not winged, glabrous. **Laminae** round to elliptic, pinnate, 5–15 × 5–10 mm, glabrous. **Pinnae** in 1–5 pairs, margins prominently toothed. **Sori** solitary and terminating rachis, pedunculate. **Indusial flaps** toothed, abaxially spiny. (Description adapted from Brownsey & Smith-Dodsworth (2000)).



Hawkins hill, Wellington. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



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SIMILAR TAXA

Recognised by its small stature, bright green colour, prominently toothed pinnae, solitary, stalked (pedunculate) sori terminating the rachises, and by the toothed indusial flaps whose outer (abaxial) surfaces are covered in spines.

LIFE CYCLE

Minute spores are wind dispersed (Thorsen et al., 2009).

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult—should not be removed from the wild.

ETYMOLOGY

hymenophyllum: Membranous leaf, from the Greek humen and phullon

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet Prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (18 April 2011). 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.

Thorsen MJ, Dickinson KJM, Seddon PJ. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics 11*: 285–309. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ppees.2009.06.001>.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/hymenophyllum-minimum/>