

Rumohra adiantiformis

COMMON NAME

leathery shield fern, florists fern

SYNONYMS

Polystichum adiantiforme

FAMILY

Dryopteridaceae

AUTHORITY

Rumohra adiantiformis (G.Forst.) Ching

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Ferns

NVS CODE

RUMADI

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

$2n = 82$

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. New Zealand: Manawatāwhi / Three Kings Islands, North Island, South Island, Stewart Island/Rakiura, Chatham Islands. Also Central and South America, southern Africa, Madagascar, the Mascarenes, Seychelles, New Guinea, Australia (depending on the way *R. adiantiformis* is circumscribed)

HABITAT

Coastal to montane. Epiphytic, lithophytic or terrestrial in forest or dense scrub. Usually in indigenous forest but also commonly seen epiphytic on willow (*Salix* spp.) along river banks, in gullies and on the margins of wetlands.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

UPL: Obligate Upland

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



Franz Josef. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 19/04/1981, Licence: CC BY.



Stokes Valley, Lower Hutt. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 13/09/2006, Licence: CC BY.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Rhizome 10–15 mm diameter, densely covered in long, golden brown to red-brown scales; margins entire or minutely toothed; apices acuminate. **Fronds** often widely spaced or aggregated toward rhizome apices, 0.2–0.9 m long. **Stipes** 0.2–0.8 m long, thick, densely invested by peltate, golden brown scales. **Lamina** 2–3-pinnate, coriaceous, 100–500 × 70–400 mm, ovate to deltoid, adaxially glossy dark green to yellow-green (sometimes pale orange-green), abaxially paler and dull, ± scaly. **Primary and lower secondary pinnae** stalked; ultimate segments oblong, obtused to rounded, crenate to bluntly lobed; veins immersed. **Sori** black when mature; indusium with a dark centre.

SIMILAR TAXA

Davallia is superficially similar. *Rumohra* is easily separated from the New Zealand indigenous and naturalised *Davallia* by the dark black, circular sori. In the wild both species are rarely found together. *Davallia tasmanii* subsp. *tasmanii* is endemic to Manawatāwhi / Three Kings Islands—where it does on occasion grow with *Rumohra*; while *D. tasmanii* subsp. *cristata* is known from one site in Puketi Forest, Northland.

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Although the New Zealand race of *Rumohra* is easily grown, it is slow to establish. Best results are obtained from plants attached to tree trunks or grown in hanging baskets. *Rumohra* prefers a humus enriched, damp free draining soil or potting medium. It does not like full sun and should not be allowed to dry out.

ETYMOLOGY

rumohra: After Rumohr

adiantiformis: Resembling Adiantum, maiden hair fern

NOTES ON TAXONOMY

Rumohra adiantiformis is a polymorphic species. Some overseas races of it are popular in cultivation, where the long-lasting fronds are used for floral work. The most widespread cultivated race of this fern comes from South Africa, and this has been found sparingly established in Whanganui. The New Zealand plant has little resemblance to this plant and as it is more fickle to cultivate it is unlikely to be used in the same way.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (13 November 2012). Description adapted from Jones (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.
Jones DL. 1998. *Rumohra*. *Flora of Australia* 48, *Ferns Gymnosperms and allied groups*: 401–402. ABRS/CSIRO Victoria, Australia.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

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

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/rumohra-adiantiformis/>