Polystichum oculatum

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Habitat:

Coastal and lowland forest and scrub margins, usually on hillsides and on colluvium and alluvium soils under scrub. It has also extended its range into urban situations where it sometimes a feature of roadside banks and cuttings.

Caption: Eastern Hutt hills, Naenae. Jul 2013.
Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe

Caption: Rachis scales on unfurling frond. Eastern Hutt hills, Naenae. Jul 2013.
Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe

Features*:

Rhizomes short, erect. Stipes 90–300 mm long. Stipes andrachises moderately to only sparsely scaly. Scales large; often pentagonal, such that they are widest near mid length; those from the stipe-rachis junction 770–2280 µm (usually > c.1000 µm) wide at mid length; pale brown to dark brown, sometimes bicolorous but never with a dark centre completely enclosed by a pale margin; apex often appearing quite blunt because of dehiscence of apical cell(s); almost always with marginal projections which often taper to cilia-like apices; underlain by smaller scales, including 'arachnioid' scales with fimbriate bases, but these only sparse, such that stipe and rachis never appear completely clothed in indumentum. Lamina 180–410 × 80–200 mm, bipinnate (with the lower primary pinnae of some large fronds being tripinnate); usually blue-green and almost concolorous with blackish blue primary and secondary costae. Primary pinnae in 11–22 pairs, the longest 43–105 × 16–43 mm. Secondary pinnae stalked and free towards the base of primary pinnae, becoming sessile and adnate towards the apex of primary pinnae; never entire, with sharply pointed apices and usually additional marginal teeth and/or crenulations. Sori round. Indusia peltate, ± flat, ± round, with entire, although often undulate and/or scalloped, margins; persistent; central dark area always significant and obvious (5-50% of surface area)

Flowering:

Not Applicable - Spore Producing

Fruiting:

Not Applicable - Spore Producing

Threats:

Not Threatened

***Attribution:**

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (13 November 2012). Description adapted from Perrie et al. (2003).

References and further reading:

Perrie, L.R.; Brownsey, P.J.; Lockhart, P.J.; Large, M.F. 2003A: Evidence for an allopolyploid complex in New Zealand *Polystichum* (Dryopteridaceae). *New Zealand Journal of Botany 41*: 189-21

For more information, visit:
http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1180