



Polystichum wawranum

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand, Northern North Island and Chatham Islands

Habitat:

Coastal to montane. Often on cliff faces, especially those composed of base-rich substrates such as calcareous sandstone, limestone, basalt and schist. A rupestral or terrestrial fern of coastal shrublands and forest, gorges, riparian forest as well as open sites on hillsides, in rough pasture or on alluvial terraces. It has also colonise urban areas where it sometimes a feature of roadside banks and cuttings.

Features*:

Rhizomes short, erect. Stipes 150–550 mm long. Stipes and rachises densely scaly. Scales filiform (hair-like); almost always widest at base; those from the stipe-rachis junction 40–120 (±95)µm wide at mid length; usually dark brown, but often appearing black to the naked eye; apex long and tapering; margins often with protrusions, which are usually blunt; often densely fimbriate around base, so much so that in young fronds the stipe and rachis scales appear to be underlain by a dense white tomentum. Lamina 270–590 × 110–280 mm; bipinnate with the basal primary pinnae of some large fronds becoming tripinnate; varying in colour from olive-green to blue-green, usually with primary and secondary costae blackish blue. Primary pinnae in 18–35 pairs, the longest 55–140 × 13–35 mm. Secondary pinnae usually adnate, but becoming free and sessile to almost stalked towards the base of primary pinnae, particularly in basal primary pinnae; often with only sparse marginal toothing, sometimes almost entire but for apical point. Sori round. Indusia peltate, ± flat, ± round, with entire, although often undulate and/or scalloped, margins; often deciduous; central dark area usually insignificant (c. < 10% of surface area).

Flowering:

Not Applicable - Spore Producing

Fruiting:

Not Applicable - Spore Producing

Threats:

Not Threatened - though very scarce on the Chatham Islands

*Attribution:

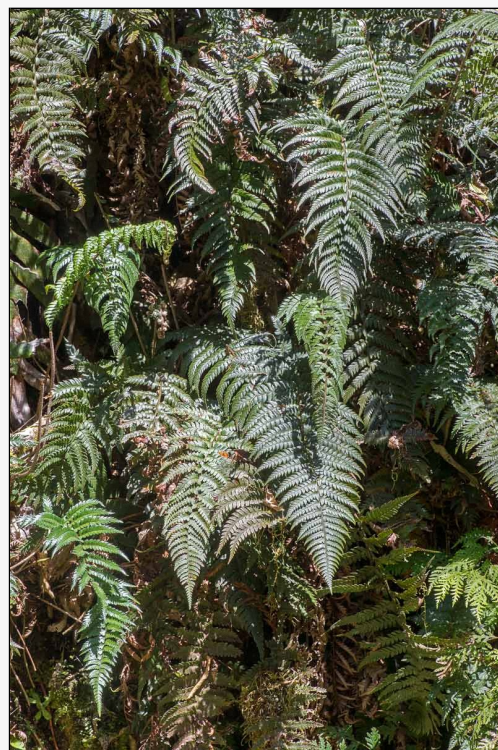
Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (12 November 2012). Description adapted from Perrie et al. (2003)

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: 189-215

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1182



Caption: Erua Forest.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



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