



Pteris saxatilis

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand: North and South Islands from North Cape to Taranaki, thence disjunct to North-West Nelson and the Marlborough Sounds.

Habitat:

Mostly coastal, though occasionally recorded well inland. Usually in open habitats such as grassy and/or rubble strewn slopes, in open forest, or amongst flax (*Phormium tenax*), *Cyperus ustulatus* (or *C. insularis*) and carices at the bank of boulder or cobble beaches.

Features*:

Terrestrial ferns. Rhizomes short, erect, scaly. Stipes 80-200 mm long, pale brown, glabrous or scaly at very base. Laminae 0.15-0.5 × 0.12-0.25 m, dark green to yellow-green, 2-3-pinnate at base, ovate, coriaceous, veins reticulate. Pinnae not overlapping, distinctly widely spaced; most lower secondary pinnae adnate. Ultimate segments 5-10 × 3-5 mm, oblong, apices tapering or bluntly pointed, margins toothed (often deeply so). Sori continuous along pinna margins on a marginal vein, protected by a membranous inrolled pinna margins.

Flowering:

Not applicable - spore producing

Fruiting:

Not applicable - spore producing

Threats:

Not Threatened

***Attribution:**

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (17 January 2012). Description adapted from Brownsey & Smith-Dodsworth (2000).

References and further reading:

Brownsey, P.J.; Smith-Dodsworth, J.C. 2000: New Zealand Ferns and Allied Plants. Auckland, David Bateman.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1206



Caption: Fantail bay, Coromandel

Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



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