



## *Sticherus cunninghamii*

### Common Name(s):

Umbrella fern, Waekura, Tapuwae kotuku

### Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

### Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand; North, South, Stewart and Auckland Islands. Widespread and common, though often absent from large parts of the eastern side of the two main islands

### Habitat:

Coastal to montane (but mostly coastal only in the wetter western part of the South Island, and in Stewart and Auckland Islands). Usually in forest where it may at times form the dominant ground cover. Also common along shaded stream banks, and in wetter areas a prominent fern along roadside cuttings.

### Features\*:

Rhizomatous fern. Rhizomes long creeping, copiously covered in scales. Fronds erect, up to 1.4 m high. Stipes 0.2-0.5(-0.8) m long, pale brown, scaly and hairy, scales ciliate, hairs stellate. Rachises in 1-3 tiers, each forking 3-4×, 120-300 mm from the stipe to tip of the longest branch, spreading and drooping in the form of an umbrella, abundantly scaly; apex of each fork terminated by a bud. Pinnae up to 15 × 3 mm, linear, acute, veins free, adaxially green, abaxially glaucous white or white. Sori in one row either side of midrib, set well away from pinna margins, consisting of c.5 aggregated sporangia, indusia absent. Description adapted from Brownsey & Smith-Dodsworth (2000).

### Flowering:

N.A.

### Fruiting:

N.A.

### Threats:

Not Threatened

### \*Attribution:

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 16 March 2011. 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=1310](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1310)



**Caption:** Closeup of underside of frond, Makarora

**Photographer:** John Barkla



**Caption:** Underside of frond, Makarora Valley

**Photographer:** John Barkla