



Tmesipteris elongata

Common Name(s):

Fork fern

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Indigenous. New Zealand: North, South, Stewart and Chatham Islands (most common in the North Island). Also Australia

Habitat:

Coastal to montane (but more common in lowland areas). Mostly epiphytic on a range of tree ferns (especially *Dicksonia*), trees and also emerging from the base of tank lilies (*Astelia* and *Collospermum* spp.). Less commonly found growing on cliff faces, amongst cracks and crevices in boulders and rock falls, or amongst mosses on the ground.

Features*:

Rhizome: brittle, dichotomously branched, 0.8-3.5 mm diameter, densely clad in dark brown rhizoids 1.0-1.5 mm long. Aerial Shoot: developing over one or many years and terminating in a small appendage 0.1-0.5× the size of the largest leaves or in small forms with predominantly distichously arranged leaves terminating in an appendage similar to the largest leaves developed; simple or dichotomously branched 1-2(-3) or more times, pendulous, 80-1180 mm long, ± quadrangular in cross-section; leaves spirally or distichously arranged, sporophylls spirally arranged. Leaves: 1-5 per 10 mm of stem, sub-coriaceous, flexible, almost isobilateral with stomata distributed over one or both surfaces, surfaces dull mid-green; oblong, lanceolate, falcate to aristate, variable on the same plant; 10-42 mm long, (excluding mucro), 3-9 mm broad; mucro blunt 1-2 mm long. Sporophylls: developed in regular or irregular zones or throughout most of the length except in the lowermost part, occasionally scattered amongst the leaves; slightly shorter than the leaves, 3-5 per 10 mm of shoot. Synangium: 2-6 mm long, 1.0-2.5 mm high at point of attachment, greenish yellow to light brown at maturity, testiculate; lobes ± equal, ends obtuse; lying along the sporophyll axis; immature synangia when dried reflex at the ends and then ± lunate; deciduous at maturity. Spores: pale yellow, often released in a mass.

Flowering:

N.A.

Fruiting:

N.A.

Threats:

Not Threatened

*Attribution:

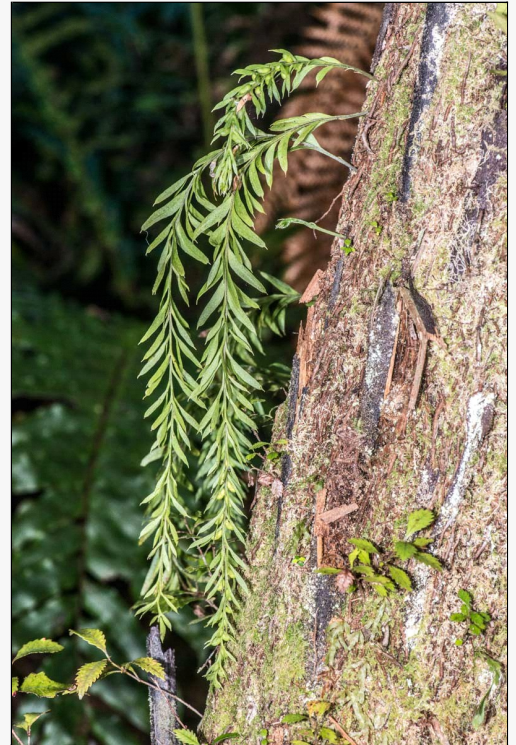
Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (21 April 2011). Description adapted from Chinnock (1975).

References and further reading:

Chinnock, R.J. 1975: The New Zealand species of *Tmesipteris* (Psilotaceae). *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 13: 743-768

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1319



Caption: On wheki, Stokes Valley, Lower Hutt.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



Caption: On wheki, Stokes Valley, Lower Hutt.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe