



Tmesipteris lanceolata

Common Name(s):

Fork Fern

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Indigenous. New Zealand: Kermadec Islands (Raoul Island) North and Chatham Islands. In the North Island present from Te Pahi to about Gisborne and Tataraimaka on the Egmont Coast. Also present in Australia (Queensland - scarce) and New Caledonia

Habitat:

Coastal to montane, though mostly lowland. Epiphytic, mostly on tree ferns (especially *Cyathea* spp.), very rarely on tree trunks.

Features*:

Rhizomatous, rhizome brittle, dichotomously branched, 1-2 mm diameter, covered with dark brown rhizoids. Aerial shoot: simple, pendulous, 40-200 mm long; sporophylls spirally arranged, leaves distichously arranged, terminating in a large appendage slightly shorter, equal to, or longer than the largest leaves developed. Leaves subcoriaceous to coriaceous, margin often thickened; dorsiventral, upper surface shiny or glossy deep green or pale green, lower surface dull green covered with stomata; shape ovate to ovate-oblong, apex acute or sometimes \pm obtuse, mucro short, thick, 1.0-1.5 mm long; 6-25 \times 2-8 mm broad. Sporophylls 3-6 per 10 mm of stem usually restricted to the lower $\frac{1}{2}$ of the shoot although in small specimens they may occur throughout.

Synangium small 2-4 \times 1-2 mm; lobes equal or the proximal one slightly smaller \pm globular, yellowish brown at maturity, persistent. Spores pale yellow released in a mass, anisopolar, bilateral, monolete, foveolate, concavo-convex, 50-72 \times 17-30 microns.

Flowering:

Not applicable - spore producing

Fruiting:

Not applicable - spore producing

Threats:

Not Threatened

*Attribution:

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (June 2009). 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=1320



Caption: Waiwhakaiho Scenic Reserve, New Plymouth.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



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