



Tmesipteris tannensis

Common Name(s):

Fork Fern

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand, North, South, Stewart, Chatham and Auckland Islands.

Habitat:

Coastal to subalpine. Terrestrial or epiphytic on a wide range of hosts and often sympatric with *Tmesipteris elongata* (less frequently with *T. lanceolata* and *T. sigmatifolia*). Less common in coastal and lowland areas in the far north where it is mostly known from higher altitude forest. However, steadily becoming more common from about Whangarei south.

Features*:

Rhizome: dichotomously branched, brittle, 2.0-3.5 mm diameter. Aerial shoot: developing over one to many years, but eventually terminating in a small appendage 0.1-0.5× the length of the largest leaves, simple, erect, suberect, or pendulous, 50-1200 mm long, triangular in cross-section, leaves and sporophylls spirally arranged. Leaves coriaceous, brittle, one surface deep glossy green, occasionally with a few stomata towards the far end, other surface dull green covered with stomata; shape variable often on same shoot, oblong, lanceolate, falcate, or ovate, 6-30 mm long × 2.5-9.0 mm broad; apex of leaf very variable often on the same plant, acute, obtuse to truncate, mucronate; mucro 1-2 mm long. Sporophylls: developed in regular or irregular zones or throughout most of the shoot except for the lowermost part, equal to or slightly shorter than the leaves; 5-7 per 10 mm of shoot. Synangium: 4.0-8.0 × 1.5-2.5 mm at point of attachment, biconic, persistent. Spores: yellow, released in a mass, anisopolar, bilateral, monolete, foveolate, concavo-convex, 67-92 × 27-45 microns broad (longitudinal plane).

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* 1: 743-768.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1321



Caption: Auckland Island
Photographer: Jane Gosden



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