



## *Arthropteris tenella*

### **Common Name(s):**

Jointed fern

### **Current Threat Status (2012):**

Not Threatened

### **Distribution:**

Indigenous. New Zealand: Three Kings, North, South and Chatham Islands (Rekohu and Rangiauria). Also Australia, Lord Howe and Norfolk Islands. In New Zealand reaching its southern limits on Banks Peninsula and Rangiauria (Pitt Island).

### **Habitat:**

Coastal and lowland forest. Usually found scrambling over rocks and climbing up tree trunks.

### **Features\*:**

Rhizomatous terrestrial and/or epiphytic ferns. Rhizome 1.5-4.0 mm diameter, widely creeping; upper surface densely covered with spreading elongate, red-brown, often marginally toothed scales (these shedding with age). Fronds 120-300 mm long, tapering towards base and partly to apex; uppermost pinna pair and terminal pinna usually enlarged. Stipes 20-120 mm long; abaxial rachis surface bearing scattered scales and sparse to dense short curled hairs; adaxially sparsely invested with scales or not. Pinnae bearing similar hairs abaxially, ± glabrescent, and on proximal portion of adaxial and abaxial midrib (here persistent); base not auriculate; apex usually attenuate but acuminate or rounded in sterile pinnae. Sterile pinnae 5-110 × 10-18 mm; margins entire. Fertile pinnae 18-160 × 5-23 mm; margins entire to crenate (scalloped). Sori round, in one row either side of midrib, set at 2/3 to 3/4 distance from midrib to margin; indusium absent.

### **Flowering:**

Not applicable - spore producing

### **Fruiting:**

Not applicable - spore producing

### **Threats:**

Not Threatened

### **\*Attribution:**

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by: P.J. de Lange (26 February 2012). Description adapted from Bell (1998) and Brownsey & Smith-Dodsworth (2000)

### **References and further reading:**

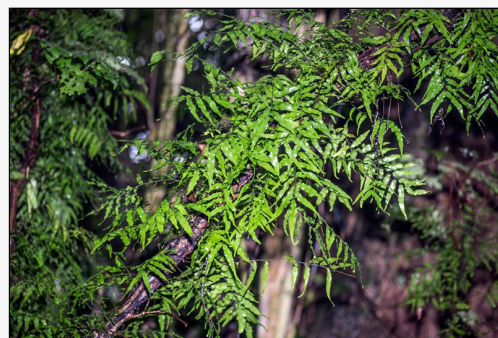
Bell, G.H. 1998: Davalliaceae. Pp. 434-450. Flora of Australia 48. Australian Biological Resources Study, CSIRO Canberra

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

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics 2009 Vol. 11 No. 4 pp. 285-309

### **For more information, visit:**

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=1516](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1516)



**Caption:** Rotokare, Taranaki. Jul 2013.

**Photographer:** Jeremy Rolfe



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