



Botrychium bifforme

Common Name(s):

fine-leaved parsley fern

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. North and South Islands, from Mt Pirongia south often sporadic but can be locally common

Habitat:

Lowland to alpine. Preferring open ground, short and tall tussock grassland, forest clearings, shrubland, river flats, frost flats, reverting pasture and seasonally flooded ground. It is often found in deeply shaded sites within tall forest, or under dense thickets of grey scrub or frost flat vegetation.

Features*:

Stout, fleshy reddish green (bronze) to green plants. Roots thick, fleshy, not ridged or contracted. Sterile laminae 1(-2) stalked, broadly ovate or 5-angled, divided 5-8 times, 30-250 x 30-150 mm, ultimate segments acute, 0.05-0.1 mm wide. Fertile laminae 1(-2) borne on a narrower but longer stalk, fertile portion shorter and narrower than sterile laminae, divided 3-5-times, bearing numerous, spherical, yellow-brown sporangia up to c.10 mm diam.

Flowering:

Not applicable - spore producing

Fruiting:

Not applicable - spore producing

Threats:

Not Threatened - however often local and sporadic in its occurrences. This species seems more tolerant of heavily shaded situations and forested habitats than *B. australe*, and there does not appear to be any suggestion of a decline happening within any part of its range.

*Attribution:

Fact Sheet by P.J. de Lange 6 June 2005. Description from Brownsey & Smith-Dodsworth (2000).

References and further reading:

Brownsey, P.J.; Smith-Dodsworth, J.C. 2000: New Zealand ferns and allied plants. David Bateman Ltd, Auckland

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* 11: 285-309

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1554



Caption: *Botrychium bifforme*
Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Caption: Otakaha Stream, Palliser Bay, Mar 2008.
Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe