



Adiantum aethiopicum

Common Name(s):

maidenhair, makaka, true maidenhair

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Indigenous. New Zealand. North and South Islands from Te Pahi south to the Waikato and Bay of Plenty, thence rather localised and often absent from large areas until the Wairarapa. Recorded once from the Buller River gorge in the South Island but not seen recently in the South Island. Also New Caledonia, Australia and South Africa.

Habitat:

Coastal to lowland. Despite its delicate appearance *Adiantum aethiopicum* is often found in very dry, exposed sites in short grassland, on clay pans, stable dunes systems, open scrub and forest. It is also occasionally found in periodically flooded ground in riparian forest and on damp clay banks in shaded gullies.

Features*:

Tufted, stoloniferous fern. Rhizome long-creeping (stoloniferous), to 3 mm diameter; wiry, c.1.5 mm diameter; scales chartaceous, yellow, transparent, broadly deltoid, entire, often spirally curled. Fronds yellow-green or bright green, densely tufted, or sometimes scattered along stolons up to 750 mm long. Stipe to 400 mm long, glossy, glabrous, red-brown, bearing conspicuous basal scales similar to those of rhizome. Lamina 120-400 × 50-230 mm, 3-pinnate, ovate to deltoid. pinnae narrowly deltoid. Pinnules round to flabellate; distal margin sometimes shallowly lobed; lobe margins entire or obscurely dentate when sterile; stalks not articulate. Sori 1-5 along the base of the distal margins, 1(-2) per lobe; soral flaps reniform, lunate to sublunate, usually at the base of a shallow sinus (notch) on the pinnule margin. Spores 64 per sporangium, with largest diameter (34.6-)41.1(-53.6) 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 (Updated 4 May 2011). Description adapted from Bostock (1998).

References and further reading:

Bostock, P.D. 1998: Adiantaceae. Flora of Australia 48: 248-263.

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

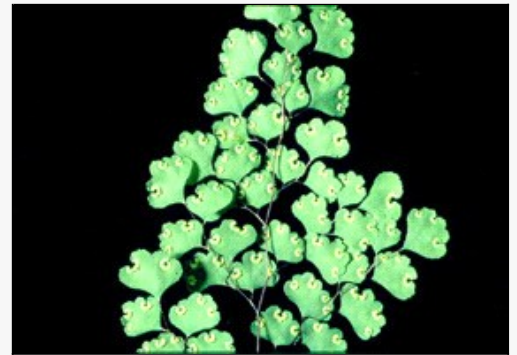
For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=2045



Caption: Stony Bay, Coromandel

Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



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