



## *Azolla rubra*

### Common Name(s):

Pacific azolla, azolla, red azolla

### Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

### Distribution:

Indigenous. New Zealand: Kermadec (Raoul Island), North and South Islands. Widespread throughout the Pacific extending into Asia and India.

### Habitat:

Coastal to lower montane. An aquatic plant frequenting shallow water bodies such as ponds, lake margins, dams and slow flowing streams. Also present in swamps on muddy ground. Occasionally establishing in cattle troughs. Azolla is most common in shallow eutrophic water bodies but it can also establish in more acidic wetland systems, where it is often a conspicuous plant of the lagg zone.

### Features\*:

Aquatic, floating, dark-red (when exposed) or glaucous-green plants, usually forming ovate to ovoid patches on the surface of water bodies. Branching irregular; roots peg-like, simple (not branched). Leaves triangular; apex rounded; margins membranous, translucent; surface smooth, bright red or glaucous-green. Microsporangiate massulae spherical, surface conspicuously barbed. Megasporocarps brown, partially obscured by leaf lobe

### Flowering:

Not applicable - spore producing

### Fruiting:

Not applicable - spore producing

### Threats:

Not Threatened

### \*Attribution:

Description prepared by P.J. de Lange (1 August 2009). Description based on live plant material and herbarium specimens

### References and further reading:

Brownsey, P.J.; Perrie, L.R. 2013: *Azolla rubra* revisited. *New Zealand Botanical Society Newsletter* 111: 6-7.

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=2065](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=2065)



**Caption:** Otago Peninsula

**Photographer:** John Barkla



**Caption:** Near Wairoa, East Coast

**Photographer:** John Sawyer