



Cheilanthes distans

Common Name(s):

woolly cloak fern, woolly rock fern

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Indigenous. Kermadec Islands: Macauley Island. New Zealand: Three Kings, North and South Islands. Also Australia and New Caledonia (mainly easterly from Te Pahi south to Banks Peninsula).

Habitat:

Coastal to montane in dry, rocky habitats with only sparse or no vegetation cover. Often found growing with *Asplenium flabellifolium*, *Cheilanthes sieberi* subsp. *sieberi* and *Pellaea calidurupium*. More common in the drier eastern parts of the country.

Features*:

Rupestal (rarely terrestrial) fern. Fronds up to 350 × 30 mm; stipe red-brown or dark brown, with moderately dense to dense covering of brown scales and some hairs' rachis densely covered in scales. Lamina linear, 2-pinnate or 2-pinnatifid at base and for most of length; large pinnae triangular-ovate; pinnules oblong-elliptic; margins entire or lobed; adaxially sparsely to moderately densely covered with slender, white hairs and occasional caducous scales, very rarely glabrous; abaxially sparsely to densely covered in scales and sparse white hairs. Spores spherical, granulose and ridged, with echinate ornamentation, 43-79 microns diameter, 16 per sporangium.

Flowering:

N.A. - spore producing

Fruiting:

N.A. - spore producing

Threats:

Not Threatened

*Attribution:

Fact Sheet Prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (Updated 3 May 2011). Adapted from Chambers & Farrant (1998)

References and further reading:

Chambers, T.C.; Farrant, P.A. 1998: *Cheilanthes*. Flora of Australia 48: 271-286.

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=2087



Caption: Mangatoetoe Stream, Aorangi Forest Park.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



Caption: Kennedy Bay, October

Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth