



Cheilanthes sieberi subsp. *sieberi*

Common Name(s):

rock fern

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Indigenous. New Zealand: Three Kings, North, South Islands. Also Australia and New Caledonia

Habitat:

Coastal to montane in dry, rocky habitats with only sparse or no vegetation cover. Often found growing with *Pellaea caliduripium*. More common in the drier eastern parts of the country.

Features*:

Terrestrial or rupestral fern. Fronds up to 350 × 35 mm; stipe and rachis dark brown or red-brown, glabrous or with sparse to moderately dense hairs (to 10 cells, often twisted and glandular), densest at stipe-rachis-rachilla junction, with some scales. Lamina linear-lanceolate or ovate, 3-pinnate at base, 2-pinnate for most of length; larger pinnae triangular-ovate; pinnules lanceolate ovate or elliptic; margins deeply incised, inrolled; adaxially glabrous, abaxially glabrous rarely with a few, sparse hairs. Spores spherical, verrucose, with varying amounts of globular, branched or reticulate deposits; either black, ridged, 49-73 microns diameter and 16 per sporangium, or brown, trilete, 36-52 microns diameter, and 32 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). Description 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=2088



Caption: Mt Iron, Wanaka
Photographer: John Barkla



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