



## *Cyathea medullaris*

### Common Name(s):

black tree fern, mamaku, black mamaku

### Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

### Distribution:

Indigenous. Occurring from the Three Kings Islands south to Stewart and the main Chatham Islands. Uncommon in the drier eastern portion of the South Island, and apparently absent from Canterbury and Otago.

### Habitat:

Common in lowland forest throughout the North Island. Primarily in wetter coastal areas of the South Island.

### Features\*:

Tree fern up to 20 m tall. Trunk black covered with hexagonal stipe bases. Stipes thick, black, harsh to touch, covered in black scales. Scales with marginal spines. Fronds up to 5 m long, arching upwards from crown, 3-pinnate, leathery, dead fronds falling (except in very young plants). Longest primary pinnae 0.4-1 m long, undersurfaces bearing scales with marginal spines. Indusia completely covering sori at maturity, splitting irregularly.

### Flowering:

None (spore bearing)

### Fruiting:

None (spore bearing)

### Threats:

Not Threatened.

### \*Attribution:

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange March 2004.  
Description adapted from Brownsey & Smith-Dodsworth (2000).

### References and further reading:

Brownsey, P.J.; Smith-Dodsworth, J.C. 2000: New Zealand Ferns and Allied Plants. Auckland, David Bateman

Esler, W.R. 1976. Succession of fronds of mamaku (*Cyathea medullaris*). *Wellington Botanical Society Bulletin* 39: 41-43



**Caption:** *Cyathea medullaris*

**Photographer:** Wayne Bennett



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### For more information, visit:

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=2097](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=2097)