



Pneumatopteris pennigera

Common Name(s):

gully fern, feather fern, piupiu

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

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

Habitat:

Coastal to montane, usually in dense forest in riparian habitats or in gullies, or on frequently flooded ground. A common fern under willows (*Salix* spp.). Often found along waterways in urban wasteland, Although usually found in shaded situations
Pneumatopteris will tolerate considerable exposure provided its roots are in a permanently damp situation.

Features*:

Delicate, terrestrial fern. Rhizome slender, erect, 0.3–1.0 m tall, scaly; scales broad, brown, glabrous. Fronds 0.4–1.2 m long, pale yellow-green to bright green. Stipe 0.15–0.3(–0.45) m long, pale brown or green-brown. Lamina narrowly elliptic to elliptic, to 0.3–1.1(–1.5) m long; pinnae to 36 pairs; basal 4–5 pairs gradually reduced; lowest pinnae 10–30 mm long, 15–30 mm wide; largest pinnae c.100 mm long, 30 mm wide at auriculate base, lobed more than 1/2-way to costae; lobes oblique, tapering, minutely dentate; costules 5–7 mm apart; veins usually 6 pairs, 1 pair anastomosing, with next acroscopic vein sometimes passing to the sinus membrane. Lamina ± glabrous, aside from pale brown ovate scales on abaxial surface of costae of emergent and young fronds, and sparse brown acicular hairs and colourless capitate hairs on adaxial surface of rachis, costae and margins. Sori inframedial, exindusiate; sporangia without capitate hairs near annulus.

Flowering:

Not Applicable - Spore Producing

Fruiting:

Not Applicable - Spore Producing

Threats:

Not Threatened

*Attribution:

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (13 November 2012). Description adapted from Bostock (1998) and Brownsey & Smith-Dodsworth (2000).

References and further reading:

Bostock, P.D. 1998: Thelypteridaceae. *Flora of Australia* 48: 327–358.

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

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=2220



Caption: *Pneumatopteris pennigera*
Photographer: Wayne Bennett



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