



Pteris tremula

Common Name(s):

shaking or tender brake, Australian bracken

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Indigenous. New Zealand: Kermadec Islands (Raoul, Meyers and Macauley Islands), Three Kings, North, South, Chatham Islands. Also Australia, Tasmania, Lord Howe, Norfolk and Fiji.

Habitat:

Coastal to montane (in northern part of range) in open, dry forest, scrub, wasteland, along track and roadsides and on retaining walls and similar sites in built up areas.

Features*:

Stout terrestrial ferns. Rhizomes short, erect, apex covered with long narrow, pale brown scales. Fronds dimorphic, tufted. Stipes 0.15-0.6 m long, glabrous (rarely with a few narrow basal scales), red-brown or black, often basally so and then red-yellow for rest of length. Laminae 0.3-1.2 × 0.2-0.7 m, bright green, yellow-green or yellow, ovate, ovate-deltoid, 3-4-pinnate at base, membranous, rachis red-brown or yellow-green. Pinnae overlapping; most secondary pinnae stalked or sessile. Ultimate sterile segments 6-38 × 3 mm wide, linear, apices blunt margins toothed; ultimate fertile segments 5-35 × 1-2 mm, linear, apices blunt, margins toothed. Veins free, simple or 1-2-forked. Sori ± continuous on a marginal vein, but absent from bases and apices of ultimate segments, protected by a membranous inrolled pinna margins

Flowering:

Not applicable - spore producing

Fruiting:

Not applicable - spore producing

Threats:

Not Threatened

*Attribution:

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (17 January 2012). Description adapted from Brownsey & Smith-Dodsworth (2000) and Kramer & McCarthy (1998).

References and further reading:

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

Kramer, K.U.; McCarthy, P.M. 1998: Pteridiaceae. Pp. 241-248. Flora of Australia 48. Australian Biological Resources Study, CSIRO Canberra

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=2232



Caption: Emerging frond. Stokes Valley, Lower Hutt. Mar 2013.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



Caption: Coromandel

Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth