



Schizaea australis

Common Name(s):

southern comb fern

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Indigenous. New Zealand: North, South, Stewart, Chatham, Auckland and Campbell Islands. Also South American and Falkland Islands. From Te Moehau south but scarce north of the Volcanic Plateau. In the South Island primarily found west of the main divide.

Habitat:

In peat bogs, pakihi, fell field, cushion bogs and in poorly drained tussock grassland or in marginal turf communities fringing lakes, tarns and ephemeral pools in forested and open areas.

Features*:

Tufted terrestrial fern. Rhizomes short-creeping, slender, hairy. Frond glabrous, reed-like, undivided, green or pale brown. Stipe 20-150 mm long, 0.25-0.5 mm diameter, erect, wiry, smooth. Laminae at stipe apices, pinnate, 4-15 mm long, pinnae fertile in 4-8 pairs, 1-4 mm long, infolded. Sporangia in one row either side of midrib.

Flowering:

N.A.

Fruiting:

N.A.

Threats:

Not Threatened

*Attribution:

Fact Sheet Prepared for NZPCN by: P.J. de Lange 10 March 2011.
Description modified 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

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=2248



Caption: Uppe Kaueranga Valley.
Oct 1982.

Photographer: John Braggins



Caption: Perry saddle, Heaphy track, November

Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth