



## *Schizaea bifida*

### Common Name(s):

forked comb fern

### Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

### Distribution:

Indigenous. New Zealand: North Island (Te Pahi to Lake Taupo and East Cape, Wellington), South Island (North-West Nelson to Westport). Also Australia and New Caledonia.

### Habitat:

Coastal to montane - mostly in open clay pans and shrubland (especially gumland scrub). Often in drought prone habitats. However, on occasion *Schizaea bifida* has also been collected from restiad peat bogs. It is also locally common in geothermal areas where it grows amongst moss and in open shrubland.

### Features\*:

Rhizomatous, tufted fern. Rhizome short-creeping, densely clothed with glossy pale to dark brown hairs. Fronds clustered, erect, 70-550 mm long, 0.6-1.2 mm wide, subterete, furrowed on 1 side or flattened, smooth to scabrid, undivided or dichotomously divided 1 or more times, pubescent at first, becoming smooth or scabrid; sterile fronds shorter and more divided than sporogenous ones or, more rarely, absent; sporogenous heads ovate-triangular to obliquely oblong, 5-30 mm long, 2-4x longer than broad, broadest near the base, tapering distally, often recurved; segments 5-12 mm long, smooth to scabrid; margins with long, brown hairs. Sporangia mixed with pale brown hairs. Description from Chinnock (1998)

### Flowering:

N.A.

### Fruiting:

N.A.

### Threats:

Not Threatened.

### \*Attribution:

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 14 March 2011.

### References and further reading:

Chinnock, R.J. 1998: Schizaeaceae. Flora of Australia 48: 177-187.

### For more information, visit:

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=2249](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=2249)



**Caption:** *Schizaea bifida*

**Photographer:** Kevin Matthews



**Caption:** Kennedy Bay

**Photographer:** John Smith-Dodsworth