



Schizaea fistulosa

Common Name(s):

comb fern

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Indigenous. New Zealand: Three Kings, North, South and Chatham Islands. In the North Island widespread from North Cape south to about the Waikato thence scarce. In the South Island confined to North-West Nelson. Also present in Australia, Malaysia, Indonesia, New Guinea, New Caledonia, Fiji and Samoa.

Habitat:

Coastal to lowland on clay pans, podzols, in gumland scrub, open scrub or forest, kauri forest (and then especially along ridged lines) and also in restiad peat bogs in the Waikato and the Chatham Islands.

Features*:

Rhizomatous, tufted fern. Rhizome short creeping, densely clothed with dark brown hairs. Frond clustered, erect, undivided, 10-500 mm long, c.0.5-1.0 mm wide, wiry, terete or subterete, furrowed on 1 side, green or pale brown with scattered hairs, smooth; sterile fronds similar to sporogenous fronds but much shorter; sporogenous heads 7-30 mm long, usually 5-12× longer than wide, narrowly triangular to linear-oblong, broadest at or near the base, tapering distally, straight or slightly curved; segments 2-5 mm long, smooth, glabrous or with sparse hairs. Sporangia not mixed with hairs. Description adapted from Chinnock (1998) and Brownsey & Smith-Dodsworth (2000).

Flowering:

N.A.

Fruiting:

N.A.

Threats:

Not Threatened

*Attribution:

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 14 March 2011. Description adapted from Chinnock (1998) and 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

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

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=2250



Caption: Waikawau bay
Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



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