



## *Botrychium australe*

### Common Name(s):

parsley fern, patotara

### Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

### Distribution:

Indigenous. Throughout North and South Islands with one old Chatham Island record. Present in Australia, Papua New Guinea and South America.

### Habitat:

Lowland to alpine. A species of open ground, short and tall tussock grassland, forest clearings, shrubland, river flats, reverting pasture and seasonally flooded ground. It has also been collected from the margins of peat bogs in the Huntly Basin, lower Waikato.

### Features\*:

Red-green (bronze) to bright green, fleshy to succulent plant. Roots thick, fleshy, distinctly ridged and contracted. Sterile laminae 1(-2), stalked, broadly ovate or 5-angled, divided 3-5-times, 30-250 x 30-150 mm, the ultimate segments blunt-ended, 1-7 mm wide. Fertile laminae 1(-2) borne on a narrower but longer stalk, fertile portion shorter and narrower than sterile laminae, divided 3-5-times, bearing numerous, spherical, yellow-brown sporangia up to c.10 mm diam.

### Flowering:

Not applicable - spore producing

### Fruiting:

Not applicable - spore producing

### Threats:

Generally uncommon and of sporadic distribution. In some habitats it can be locally abundant, but in many places it is now scarce. There is some evidence of losses happening in the northern part of its range but as yet this seems insufficient to warrant a higher threat listing

### \*Attribution:

Fact Sheet by P.J. de Lange 6 June 2005. Description from Brownsey & Smith-Dodsworth (2000).

### References and further reading:

Brownsey, P.J.; Smith-Dodsworth, J.C. 2000: New Zealand ferns and allied plants. David Bateman Ltd, Auckland

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285-309.

### For more information, visit:

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=226](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=226)



**Caption:** Young frond. Taurewa.

**Photographer:** © John Braggins



**Caption:** Sporangia. Te Anau.

**Photographer:** © John Braggins