



Hypolepis amaurorachis

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Indigenous. New Zealand: Southern South Island (Catlins and Fiordland coastline), also on Rekohu (Chatham Island), and both Auckland and Campbell Islands. Present in Victoria and Tasmania (Australia).

Habitat:

A short-lived species favouring freshly disturbed ground in coastal habitats and lowland forest (Not far from the coast). Often frequenting the margins of seal haul outs, and sea bird colonies, also present along track sides. On Campbell Island it grows where Elephant seals congregate and also in and around tussock grasses in places kept open by the passage of seals and sea birds.

Features*:

Rhizome long-creeping, 20–25 mm diam., covered in red-brown hairs. Stipes 70–230(–450) mm long, 1.0–3.5 mm diam., dark red-brown, bearing abundant colourless or pale-brown glandular hairs up to 2 mm long. Laminae narrowly ovate to ovate, 150–550 × 100–350 mm, bipinnate at apex, tripinnate at base. Rachis dark red-brown at base becoming paler above and often green at apex, densely covered in colourless or pale-brown glandular hairs up to 1.5 mm long. Primary pinnae in 15–30 pairs + pinnatifid apex, opposite or alternate, lower arising at (20–)30–70°, upper ones at 70–90°, longest ones below the middle 50–200 × 20–90 mm; lowest pairs 30–100 mm apart, middle ones 15–50 mm apart; upper ones parallel-sided or narrowly ovate, lower ones ovate or narrowly ovate. Secondary pinnae ovate to ± parallel-sided, longest 5–45 × 10–20 mm, those on the lower pinnae decreasing markedly in length along the pinnae. Tertiary pinnae up to 6 × 10 mm, deeply incised reaching margin at a tooth apex. Hairs: colourless glandular hairs (0.3–0.7 mm on laminae, up to 1 mm on midribs) interspersed with a few bristly colourless hairs densely covering both surfaces of lamina, lamina margins, and pinna midribs and costae. Sori in 1–3 pairs on ultimate pinnules, originating away from margin, slightly protected by reflexed margins of pinnules. Spores pale brown, echinate.

Flowering:

Not applicable - spore producing

Fruiting:

Not applicable - spore producing

Threats:

Hypolepis amaurorachis is a naturally uncommon, biological sparse species occupying freshly disturbed coastal and lowland habitats. It is probably short-lived and so transient, appearing in suitable habitats as and when the opportunity arise.

*Attribution:

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (6 March 2008). Description from Brownsey & Chinnock (1984).

References and further reading:

Brownsey, P.J.; Chinnock, R.J. 1984: A Taxonomic revision of the New Zealand species of *Hypolepis*. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 22: 43-80.

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=272



Caption: North Shore, Milford Sound

Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



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