



## *Schizaea dichotoma*

### Common Name(s):

Fan fern

### Current Threat Status (2012):

Naturally Uncommon

### Distribution:

Indigenous. In New Zealand confined to the Kermadec Islands (Raoul Island) and North Island from Te Pahi south to Kawhia and Mt Maunganui, and locally around geothermally active sites around Rotorua and Taupo. Widespread from Madagascar east to Australia and across the Pacific.

### Habitat:

Usually associated with lowland kauri (*Agathis australis* (D. Don.) Lindl.) forest but also found in coastal areas and offshore island under pohutukawa (*Metrosideros excelsa* Sol. ex Gaertn.) dominated forest (e.g., Mayor (Tuhua) Island). In geothermal areas it is often found under shrubs of *Kunzea ericoides* var. *microflora* (G. Simpson) W. Harris.

### Features\*:

Tufted, widely creeping fern forming diffuse patches in open, often semi-shaded sparsely vegetated ground; usually arising from within thick leaf litter. Stipes 100-350 x 1.-1.5 mm, brown at base, green to dark green, erect, flattened, flabellate in upper portion with stipe forked 3-6(-8) times, smooth. Laminae at apices of stipe ends, pinnate (fertile), 2-7 mm long, bright green to yellow-green. Pinnae in 5-8 pairs, infolded, 2-4 mm long. Description modified from Brownsey & Smith-Dodsworth 2000.

### Flowering:

Not applicable - spore producing

### Fruiting:

Not applicable - spore producing

### Threats:

Not Threatened. A naturally uncommon, biologically sparse species. It can at times be very common but it is usually found as widely scattered populations. There is little doubt that some populations have declined due to land development and other changes in the surrounding vegetation (e.g., Mt Maunganui)

### \*Attribution:

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange July 2005. 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=315](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=315)



**Caption:** *Schizaea dichotoma*  
**Photographer:** Dean Baigent-Mercer



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