



Trichomanes colensoi

Common Name(s):

Bristle fern

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Endemic. North, South, Stewart and Chatham Islands. From Mt Karioi (Western Waikato) and Te Moehau (Coromandel Peninsula) south. Known from only one site on Rekohu (Chatham Island) in the Chatham Islands group.

Habitat:

An uncommon fern that most commonly occurs on wet rock faces, usually within overhangs or beside streams in dark, wet, lowland to montane forest. It may also be found as a low epiphyte in cloud forest, or within holes amongst exposed roots, or on trees rooted over boulder falls. Often associated with *Trichomanes strictum* and *Hymenophyllum australis*.

Features*:

Colony forming, extensively rhizomatous fern of dark recesses, rock faces and overhangs usually near to or partially immersed in water. Rhizomes long creeping. Stipes 5-30 mm long. Stipe and rachises not winged, dark black, rather wiry and pliant. Frond lamina 30-120 x 10-30 mm, dark green (rarely bright green), narrowly elliptic, 2-3-pinnate. Primary pinnae widely spaced, stalked, finely divided; ultimate segments linear, deeply toothed, with the veins forking 1-2 times per segment. Sori distinctly stalked, usually solitary (sometimes paired) at bases of primary pinnae. Indusia tubular, widened at mouth.

Flowering:

Not applicable - spore producing

Fruiting:

Not applicable - spore producing

Threats:

Not threatened. A naturally uncommon, biologically sparse species which may be abundant in suitable habitats and then absent from other apparently suitable sites nearby.

*Attribution:

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (July 2007). Description adapted 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

Brownsey, P.J. & Perrie, L.R. 2016: *Hymenophyllaceae*. In: Breitwieser, I.; Heenan, P.B.; Wilton, A.D. *Flora of New Zealand - Ferns and Lycophytes*. Fascicle 15. Manaaki Whenua Press, Lincoln.

Ebihara, A.; Dubuisson, J-Y.; Iwatsuki, K.; Hennequin, S.; Ito, M. 2006: A taxonomic revision of the *Hymenophyllaceae*. *Blumea* 51: 2-57

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=332



Caption: Akatarawa Range.

Photographer: © John Braggins



Caption: Bull Creek, Akatarawa

Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth