



## *Trichomanes caudatum*

### Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

### Distribution:

Indigenous. Kermadec Islands (Raoul Island); New Zealand (North Island). Also the wider Pacific, eastern Australia (Queensland to Victoria), New Guinea, Malesia, New Caledonia, Fiji, Samoa, Tahiti and Rarotonga.

### Habitat:

Epiphytic on the trunks of wheki (*Dicksonia squarrosa*) in lowland, riparian forest

### Features\*:

Diminutive, epiphytic fern. Rhizome long creeping 1-1.5 mm diameter, densely clothed with spreading bristle-like dark red-brown multicellular hairs. Fronds crowded toward rhizome apex, 10-20 mm long. Stipes 3-5 mm long, bearing two faint longitudinal ridges. Frond lamina deeply 1-2(-3) pinnatifid, broadly deltoid to narrowly ovate, 8-10(-12) mm wide, membranous, ± pale green; apex erect, ultimate segments linear, 1-3 mm long, 0.3-0.4 mm wide, ± glabrous. Sori inconspicuous, immersed in the apices of basal segments of secondary pinnae, involucre funneliform, 0.2-0.5 (-1.0) mm long, 0.3-0.6 mm wide at apex, narrowly winged for most of length, ± narrowly triangular, mouth lobed 4x, lobes entire, spreading; receptacle exserted.

### Fruiting:

### Flowering:

N.A.

N.A. Fruiting material appears to be present in the New Zealand population throughout the year

### Threats:

Currently this species is known from a single site in New Zealand where it is present on < 10 wheki (*Dicksonia squarrosa*) in a small are of riparian forest. The host trees are at risk from flooding, weeds and, as they grow alongside a popular walking track, vandalism. The population has declined since it was first discovered in the late 1990s as some host trees have died. The population is being carefully monitored by the Department of Conservation. As this fern was found by chance and it is very easily overlooked it is quite likely that further populations exist elsewhere in New Zealand. On Raoul Island (Kermadec Islands group) it is known from a single site near the summit of that island.

### \*Attribution:

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 10 March 2011. Description modified from Bostock & Spokes (1998) using measurements taken from the limited New Zealand herbarium material available. Notes on variability of *A. caudatum* in New Zealand from B.S. Parris (pers. comm.)

### References and further reading:

Bostock, P.D.; Spokes, T.M. 1998: Hymenophyllaceae. Flora of Australia. Vol. 48: 116-148.

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=6667](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=6667)



**Caption:** Raoul Island. May 2011.

**Photographer:** Jeremy Rolfe from a specimen collected by Peter de Lange.



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