



Sticherus tener

Common Name(s):

Silky Fan Fern

Current Threat Status (2012):

Nationally Critical

Distribution:

Indigenous. Common in South Eastern Victoria and Tasmania. In New Zealand known only from the Five Fingers Peninsula, Resolution Island, Fiordland where it said to be reasonably common.

Habitat:

Collected from a steep ridge under dense *Nothofagus menziesii* (Hook.f.) Oerst. forest. More exact collection details unavailable. In Tasmania where this species is abundant it tends to grow in permanently damp soils along water courses and drainage lines within rainforest (often dominated by *Nothofagus cunninghamii* (Hook.) Oerst)

Features*:

Stout fern forming dense colonies. Rhizome long creeping (up to 2 m long), 2-3 mm diameter, with dark brown ciliate scales. Frond yellow-green to green, comprised of 1-4 tiers of opposite primary branches which in turn are divided 1-4 times; ultimate divisions linear to narrowly lanceolate; pinnules of first fork simple or lobed; dormant axillary buds conspicuous. Stipe 0.6-0.9 m long, glabrous except for basal scales; rachis bearing brown ciliate scales, glabrescent. Ultimate segments 8-20 x 2-3 mm wide, entire or rarely with distal portions irregularly crenate, set at an angle of 75°-90° to axis, glabrous above, with white to pale brown simple and branched hairs along the veins below. Sori of 3-6 sporangia set 1/3 to 1/2 the distance from the margin to the midrib; sporangia yellow-brown 2-3 mm diameter. Description adapted from Chinnock & Bell (1998).

Flowering:

Not applicable - spore producing

Fruiting:

Not applicable - spore producing

Threats:

Unknown. Represented in New Zealand by a single incomplete gathering made in the 1960s and only recognised as this species in 1998.

*Attribution:

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange March 2005. Description adapted from Chinnock & Bell (1998).

References and further reading:

Chinnock, R.J.; Bell, G.H. 1998: Gleicheniaceae. Flora of Australia 48: 148-162.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=721



Caption: Recherche Bay, Tasmania
Photographer: Peter de Lange



Caption: Probably *Sticherus tener* (could be *S. urceolatus* M. Garrett et Kantvilas)
Photographer: Peter de Lange, April 2000, Recherche Bay, Tasmania