

Trichomanes	"Fine hair", Greek, trikhos, gen. of thrix, hair and manos, thin, loose. Refers to the slender hair projecting from the indusia.
venosum	"Veined" Lat. adj. from vena, vein. This species has very prominent veins.
villosum	"Shaggy, hairy" Lat. adj. from villus, shaggy hair, tuft of hair.

HYMENOPHYLLUM MALINGII

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Hymenophyllum malingii is an uncommon fern confined in the North Island to mountain districts from Te Aroha to the Ruahines. In the South Island it is found in lowland to montane forests in Nelson, near the Main Divide in Canterbury, in Westland, Fiordland and near Dunedin.

Usually it is epiphytic on dead or living trunks of *Libocedrus bidwillii*. Recently other habitats have been brought to my attention. Eileen Heatherbell of the Nelson fern Society reported *Hymenophyllum malingii* growing on rocks at Lake Rotoroa - Nelson Lakes National Park. Along with a small group of friends during February 1994 I found it growing in the Matiri Forest - a mixed beech forest near Murchison. As well as being on the ground and on fallen logs it was on live tree trunks of *Libocedrus bidwillii*, *Weinmannia racemosa*, *Nothofagus solandri* and felled trunks of *Metrosideros umbellata*. Because of the diversity of habitats I thought Matiri Forest was outstanding for *H. malingii*.

In March of this year Les Moran, a member of a DoC possum eradication team, took me to a south-west spur running from Mt Lodestone down to Flora Saddle Creek. Here we crawled on our hands and knees into a grove of *Archeria traversii*. *Hymenophyllum malingii* in this *Archeria* grove covered an amazingly extensive area. Not only was it on the *Archeria* trunks and branches but it also grew just as profusely on the ground and in association with moss and lichens on rocks. In this latter habitat the fronds were very stunted.

At the edge of the *Archeria* grove as well as being on the ground *H. malingii* had draped itself around *Nothofagus solandri* trunks. The spur is warm and dry and there are no *Libocedrus bidwillii* trees in this location. Other *Hymenophyllum* species growing in this area were *H. flabellatum*, *H. multifidum*, and *H. villosum*.

Reference

Brownsey, P.J., Smith-Dodsworth, J.C. 1989. *New Zealand Ferns and Allied Plants*. David Bateman, Auckland