

Clematis paniculata

COMMON NAME

White clematis, puawananga

SYNONYMS

Clematis integrifolia G.Forst. non *C. integrifolia* L.; *Clematis indivisa* Willd.

FAMILY

Ranunculaceae

AUTHORITY

Clematis paniculata J.F.Gmel.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Dicotyledonous Lianes and Related Trailing Plants

NVS CODE

CLEPAN

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

$2n = 16$

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North, South and Stewart Islands. Naturalised on Chatham Island.

HABITAT

Coastal to montane in shrubland or tall forest (up to 1000 m a.s.l.).

FEATURES

Robust high-climbing evergreen woody vine. Main stems woody up to 200 mm diameter at base, branching in upper ½ or less, bark grey-brown, furrowed, branchlets stout, pliant, glabrescent. Leaves dark and glabrous above, pale green and sparsely covered in white hairs beneath, 3-foliolate, (50-)-70-130-(10) × 60-120(-190) mm; leaflets coriaceous, broadly ovate to broad-oblong, cordate to truncate at base; margin entire to crenately toothed or lobed near apex, rarely deeply lobed to almost dissected; petiole (20-)-30-60(-70) mm long. Flowers unisexual, in compound axillary dichasial cymes. Bracts paired; lower pair often leaf-like, united, usually inserted below middle of pedicel. Male flowers: sepals 6, imbricate, white, glabrous above, hairy beneath, spatulate to obovate or oblong, 25-35(-60) × 8-15-(24) mm; stamens numerous; anthers 1.5-2.0(-2.5) mm long; filaments sparsely hairy or glabrous. Female flowers: sepals 6, similar to male, (16)-20-25-(40) × 7-10(-13) mm; staminodes few. Achenes hairy, 2-4 mm long. Style (2.5)-3.5-6.5 cm long at fruiting, plumose. Fruits not persistent.



White clematis. Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



Ohau Valley, Tararua Forest Park.
Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe

SIMILAR TAXA

None - the usually entire, dark green, leathery leaves, and big white flowers serve to distinguish it from all indigenous, naturalised and exotic species in New Zealand, except *C. armandii* which differs from *C. paniculata* by its much larger leaves with lanceolate lobed leaflets and smaller white flowers.

FLOWERING

July - November

FLOWER COLOURS

White

FRUITING

October - January

LIFE CYCLE

Pappate achenes are dispersed by wind (Thorsen et al., 2009).

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from seed. Can be grown by cuttings but these can be fickle and slow to strike. Prefers to be planted a permanently damp but not sopping soil, in a situation where it can grow up into the sun. Its root stock should never be allowed to dry out. In humid climates prone to powdery mildew.

ETYMOLOGY

clematis: From the Greek klema 'vine', alluding to the vine-like habit of many species

paniculata: Small sprayed

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Webb et al. (1988)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Esler, A.E. 1969. Leaves of *Clematis paniculata*. Wellington Botanical Society Bulletin, 36: 40

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics 11: 285-309

Webb et al. (1988), Flora of New Zealand Vol. IV. DSIR Botany Division, Lincoln.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/clematis-paniculata/>