

Clematis paniculata

COMMON NAMES

white clematis, puawananga

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lianes & Related Trailing Plants - Dicotyledons

FLOWER COLOURS

White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

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.

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.

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.).

GENUS

Clematis

FAMILY

Ranunculaceae

AUTHORITY

Clematis paniculata J.F.Gmel.

SYNONYMS

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



Ohau Valley, Tararua Forest Park.

Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Licence: CC BY.



Western Hutt hills. Photographer: Jeremy R.

Rolfe, Date taken: 24/08/2013, Licence: CC BY.

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

July - November

FRUITING

October - January

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

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.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

UPL: Obligate Upland

Rarely is a hydrophyte, almost always in uplands (non-wetlands).

ETYMOLOGY

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

paniculata: Small sprayed

NVS CODE

CLEPAN

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 16

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Auckland: 2025 | Regionally Not Threatened | Qualifiers: DPS, DPT Help

The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Auckland conservation status information is sourced from the "[Conservation status of vascular plant species in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland](#)" Simpkins E et al. (2025) report.

Otago: 2025 | Regionally Not Threatened Help

The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Otago conservation status information is sourced from the "[Conservation Status of Indigenous Vascular Plants in Otago, 2025](#)" Jarvie S et al. (2025) report.

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.

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Webb et al. (1988)

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MORE INFORMATION

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

PDF DATE

08 June 2026