

Clematis quadribacteolata

COMMON NAME

clematis

FAMILY

Ranunculaceae

AUTHORITY

Clematis quadribacteolata Colenso

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lianes & Related Trailing Plants - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

CLEQUA

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 16

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, Sp

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Vine with small, entire to three-lobed leaflets and purplish coloured flowers.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island (from Waitomo and the Bay of Plenty south to eastern Wairarapa), South Island (Nelson, Marlborough, Westland, Canterbury, Otago and Southland).

Mainly in the drier east.

HABITAT

Lowland to subalpine. A species favouring grey scrub, frost flats and forest margins.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

UPL: Obligate Upland

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



In cultivation ex eastern Wairarapa.

Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 24/08/2008, Licence: CC BY.



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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Evergreen slender, low-growing woody climber; branchlets grooved, glabrous or finely puberulent when young.

Leaves 1.5–3–(4.5) × 0.5–2–(3) cm, simple to 3-foliolate, opposite; petioles 1–2.5–(3.5) cm long. **Leaflets** sparsely hairy on petiole and petiolule; petiolules c. 5–10 mm long; midvein and secondary veins inconspicuous above and below; leaflet variable, glabrous above and below, lamina 1–11 mm long, simple, trifid or with basal lobe, broadly spatulate, usually entire, thin, brownish green, tip acute to obtuse, base truncate to subcordate, undersides paler.

Juvenile leaves larger, thinner. **Inflorescences** unisexual, inconspicuous against foliage, soliatry or in 2–3-flowered clusters in leaf axils, up to 8 cm long; inflorescence bracts elliptic, obtuse to hooded, 2–3 paired, connate, hairy.

Flowers dull light purple, strongly scented;  to 1 cm diameter, sepals 4, linear-lanceolate, obtuse, imbricate, glabrous above, +/- silky hairy beneath, 5–15 × 1–2 mm, purplish to reddish brown; stamens 25–28, anthers 0.5–1.5 mm long, filaments glabrous., up to 1 cm long;  sepals 4, generally darker and hairier than male, otherwise similar; carpels 22–24; staminodes few. **Achenes** hairy, elliptic, narrowed to apex, compressed, margin thickened and distinct, surface unornamented, (2.2)–2.8–3.5–(3.8) mm long, styles (12)–15–25–(35) cm long at fruiting, white-plumose for most of length, glabrous or with short hairs at base.

SIMILAR TAXA

The wider green hairy sepals (petals are not present in *Clematis* species) distinguish *Clematis marata* from the very similar *C. quadribacteolata*, which has narrow purple sepals that are glabrous on the inner surface. When not in flower they are more difficult to distinguish, but *C. marata* leaflets and branchlets are hairier. The distribution of these two species overlaps throughout eastern South Island.

FLOWERING

September–October

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, Violet/Purple

FRUITING

November–December

LIFE CYCLE

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown. However, on account of its inconspicuous foliage, and dull-coloured flowers it is not very popular with most gardeners. Best grown up through a divaricating shrub. Like all clematis, this species does best planted in a permanently damp, fertile soil, in a site where its root stock can remain shaded, and its stems can grow up into the sunlight.

ETYMOLOGY

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

NOTES ON TAXONOMY

Clematis marata and *C. quadribacteolata* were treated by Allan (1961) as parts of a variable complex. Joe Cartman showed that they are distinct species, and provided descriptions in *Canterbury Botanical Society Journal* 20: 36–37 (1986).

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Allan (1961), Webb et al. (1988), Eagle (2000), and Webb and Simpson (2001).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

- Allan HH. 1961. Flora of New Zealand, Volume I. Indigenous Tracheophyta: Psilopsida, Lycopsidea, Filicopsida, Gymnospermae, Dicotyledones. Government Printer, Wellington, NZ. 1085 p.
- Eagle A. 2006. Eagle's complete trees and shrubs of New Zealand. Te Papa Press, Wellington, NZ. 2-volume boxed set: vol. 1 pp 1–529; vol. 2: pp 532–1114.
- Thorsen MJ, Dickinson KJM, Seddon PJ. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285–309. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ppees.2009.06.001>.
- Webb CJ, Sykes WR, Garnock-Jones PJ. 1988. Flora of New Zealand, Volume IV. Naturalised Pteridophytes, Gymnosperms, Dicotyledons. Botany Division, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Christchurch, NZ. 1365 p.
- Webb CJ, Simpson MJA. 2001. Seeds of New Zealand Gymnosperms and Dicotyledons. Manuka Press, Christchurch, NZ. 428 p.

MORE INFORMATION

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