

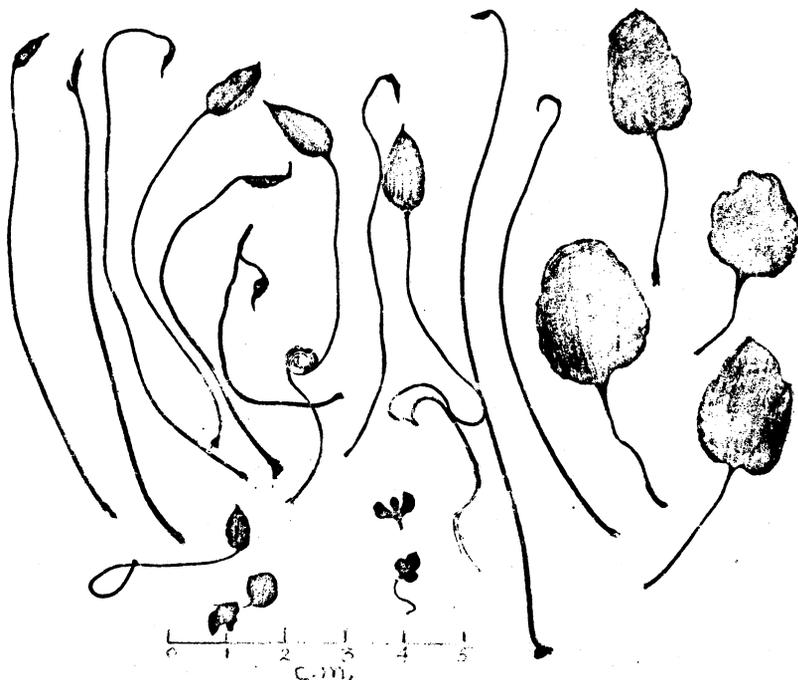
CLEMATIS AFOLIATA

Cecil W.H. Dunn

Clematis afoliata (leafless Clematis) has very tender leaves. The leaf life varies from days to weeks. I have collected some leaves from my garden after a daily watch for their appearance.

To illustrate their shapes I have made some Xerox prints of leaves; also bare stems as the only way they are seen by most. The C. afoliata does not have leaflets, which makes it different from all other New Zealand Clematis, which have trifoliate divisions.

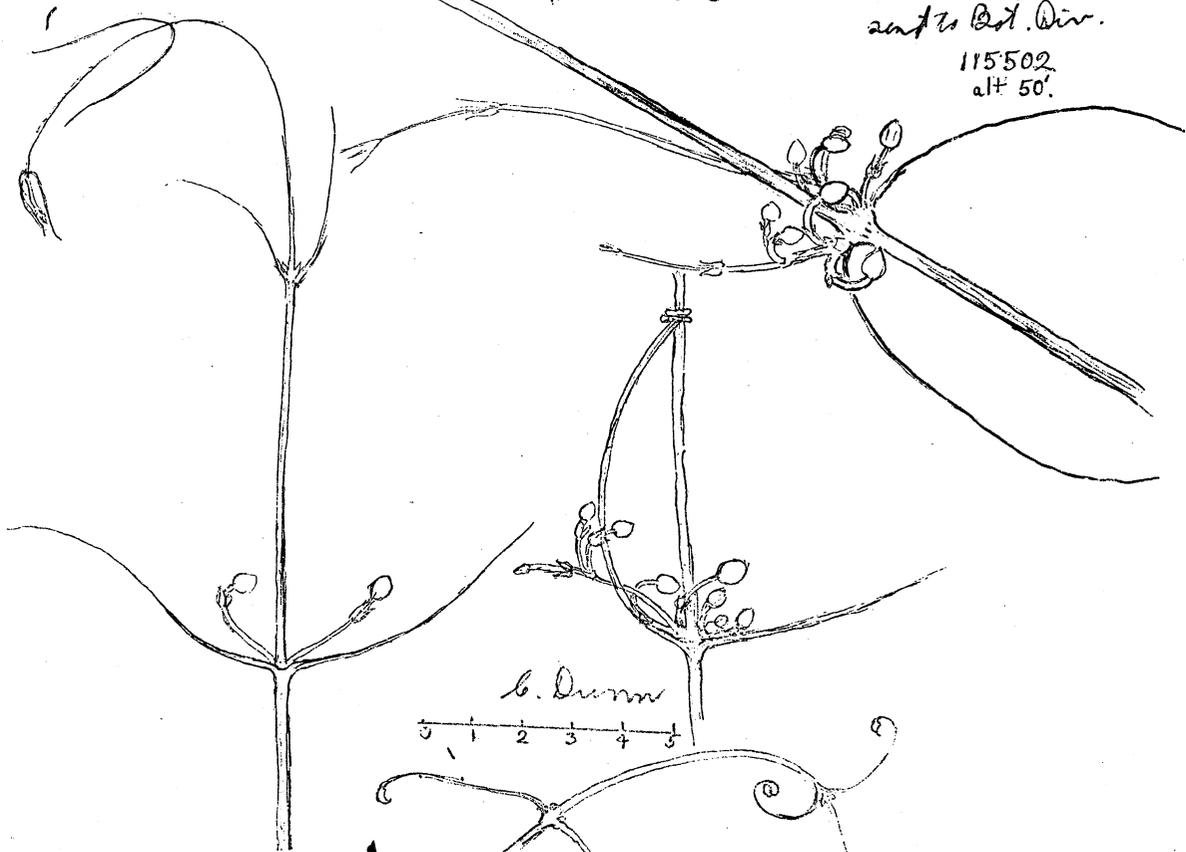
During juvenile life some seedlings of other species have leaves before the trifoliate appear. Many of the young vegetate shoots get nipped off before the leaves are able to develop. I have not been able to discover how this happens. Birds, insects, or the wind could be responsible. The shoots waving freely in the air above ground could be free from slugs. The plant grows freely from seed, but slugs and snails wouldn't let the seedling survive. To nurse the seedlings to adult stage, a daily application of slug bait is necessary. This may be why one is unlikely to find a seedling in the field. I have found only one and that was at Nape Nape on a dry hill face by the sea.



C. afoliata leaves

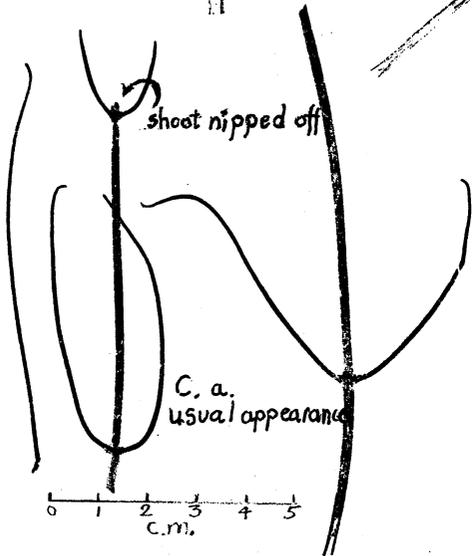
3. Sept. 1961
Zunmeyer
10000 ft. above sea level.
sent to Bot. Div.

115502
alt 50'



b. Dunn

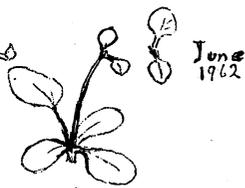
0 1 2 3 4 5



shoot nipped off

C. a.
usual appearance

0 1 2 3 4 5
c.m.



June
1962

0 1 2 3
cm.

Feb. 1962:
seedling *afoliata*.
seed intact
seed from *waipara*

On October 14th 1961 I located a Clematis 200 yards north of the Hurunui Hotel. It was in flower and both female and male flowers were there; so I collected these and sent specimens to the Botany Division, Lincoln.

The nearest specie seemed to be the *afoliata*, but the stems of *afoliata* are pale green and these were purplish. This specie had three leaflets and *afoliata* has a single leaf. The flower of *afoliata* is greenish yellow and this one was a pinkish yellow.

I made sketches of some details which I include here.

