

## NOTES ON SPECIES OF CLEMATIS.

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Notes on the species of Clematis in the 'Key to the New Zealand Clematis' Journal 19 p.72. Some information is also given of four adventive species and one exotic. Identification of vitalba is important as it is a particularly undesirable weed and every effort should be made to eradicate it.

The New Zealand species are all early flowering, spring and early summer, though they may vary to some extent when grown in the garden.

## NATIVE SPECIES

C. afoliata: leafless clematis; climbing plant up to 3m or more tall; stems green, grooved; leaves reduced to petioles, with which the plant climbs, but without a distinct leaf blade - in shaded situations a tiny leaflet may form on the end of the petiole -; flowers usually 2- 6 from each node, sepals up to 2.5cm long, fragrant. Normally scrambling over rocky outcrops making a large tangle of wiry, green stems. Will climb through a shrub.

C. foetida: large climber, scrambling through shrubs and trees forming masses on top of its support; leaves 3-foliolate, thick and shining when mature; flowers about 3cm across with 5 - 8 sepals, borne in large panicles, the whole effect being of a billowy, yellowish mass in the tops of the trees. The flowers are beautifully fragrant. Has a marked juvenile stage that resembles C. marata and lasts about 3 - 4 years.

C. forsteri (includes C. australis, C. petriei, and C. hookeriana): Climber up to 3m or more on shrubs and small trees, especially in scrub and forest margins; leaves immensely variable, from 3-foliolate unlobed to very dissected, sometimes on the same plant. flowers 2-10 per node, either single or on a few flowered panicles on vigorous plants, sepals 6 - 8 up to 3 by 1cm, green to yellowish green, often very strongly scented.

C. marata: slender climber; stems green or brownish, no glaucous bloom when young leaves very variable, 3-foliolate, leaflets vary from round to much elongated and lobed, usually fairly thick and coriaceous; flowers up to 6 per node, peduncle with prominent

bracts which sometimes make up a large part of the leafyness of the plant, up to 15 by 7 - 10mm; sepals four, 10mm by 4 or 5mm greenish, sometimes with a dark basal blotch, often with a pronounced twist or rolled edge. Flowers often have a strong cinnamon scent. Flowers in early spring about a month later than C. quadribraeteolata. Grows in similar associations to the latter in the South Island.

C. marmoraria: small, suckering, non-climbing plant, inhabiting rock fissures in marble; stems above ground up to 10cm tall, seldom branching; flowers solitary on golden haired peduncles, up to 5cm long, held upright above the foliage, 2 - 3cm in diam with 5 - 8 sepals.

C. paniculata; vigorous climber, up to 10cm; leaves 3-foliolate, leaflets variously lobed and sometimes well divided, frequently have a dark irregular blotch in the centre and are quite thick and leathery; flowers in many flowered panicles, sepals 6 - 0, up to 5cm long, flower size variable can be huge. Flowers from end of October, 3 -4 weeks.

C. quadribraeteolata: slender climber; stems brown or purple-brown, glaucous bloom when young but wears off easily; leaves thin, small, 3-foliolate on a long petiole, leaflets greenish-brown, entire or with basal lobes, and a small point at tip: flowers 2 - 4 per node, sepals long and narrow up to 15 by 2mm, brown or purple, rarely with a faint scent. Flowers in October for 2 weeks. The first New Zealand species to flower.

Adventive Species.

C. cirrhosa: evergreen; white or cream, hanging, bell-like flowers in winter; two forms one with reddish dots inside the flower, the other has not.

C. flammula: small, white, scented flowers, in late summer; similar to C. vitalba but smaller and not so vigorous.

C. tangutica: orange-yellow flowers in summer. Related to C. orientalis, which has yellow flowers. Has, probably, not been found growing adventively but is grown in New Zealand gardens.

C. vitalba: off-white or cream flowers, in mid-summer. Distinguishing features; soft, membranous leaves, sharply toothed, except near flower; big, thick trunk, with bark hanging in strips.