

# Clematis forsteri

## COMMON NAME

Forster's clematis

## SYNONYMS

*Clematis australis* var. *rutifolia* (Hook.f.) Allan; *Clematis hexasepala* var. *rutifolia* Hook.f.; *Clematis colensoi* Hook.f.; *Clematis colensoi* var. *rutifolia* (Hook.f.) Hook.f.; *Clematis hexapetala* L.f.; *Clematis hexasepala* DC.; *Clematis australis* Kirk

## FAMILY

Ranunculaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Clematis forsteri* J.F.Gmel.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lianes & Related Trailing Plants - Dicotyledons

## NVS CODE

CLEFOR

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 16

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

.Cream-flowered vine with variable shaped leaflets in threes

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North and South Islands. From Auckland area south to northern Westland and Canterbury.

## HABITAT

Lowland forest and forest margins, especially forest margins, open spaces and streamsides.



Waipapa Stream, Wellington south coast.  
Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken:  
24/10/1994, Licence: CC BY.



Waipapa Stream, Wellington south coast.  
Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken:  
24/10/1994, Licence: CC BY.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Variable evergreen woody climber; stems to 5 m long, 5-10 mm diam. at base; branchlets grooved, sparsely hairy when young, becoming glabrous. Leaves 3-foliolate, opposite, 3-10(-16) x (3-)4-8(-14) cm; petioles (1-)2-5(-7) cm long, stout, glabrous. Leaflets 14-55 x 9-28, simple to pinnate, simple leaflets lanceolate to deltoid, margins crenate, serrate or deeply pinnatifid to bipinnatifid, apices apiculate, base attenuate to truncate, petiolules 10-60 mm long, grooved, twining, glabrous or sparsely hairy, hairs white, becoming glabrate; midvein and secondary veins visible above, more obvious below; lamina thin to coriaceous, dark green to grey-green, tip acute, base truncate to subcordate, undersides paler. Juvenile leaves larger, thinner. Inflorescences unisexual, conspicuous, of solitary or 2-10-flowered clustered in leaf axils or in dichasial cymes of 5-10 flowers; pedicels 25-95 mm long moderately to densely hairy; inflorescence bracts 3-13(-18) x 1-4(-8), linear to elliptic, acute to obtuse, paired, united, inserted about middle of pedicel, glabrous to moderately hairy. Flowers spicely scented. Male to 4 cm diam., sepals 5-6, narrowly to broadly elliptic, lanceolate or ovate, imbricate, glabrous or sparsely silky hairy above (rarely glabrous above), silky hairy to hairy beneath, 10-25 x 3-13 mm, cream, base often flushed red-brown; stamens 20-37, anthers 2.4-3.5 mm long, filaments glabrous., 3-11 mm long. Female sepals 5-6(-7), similar to male, 13-25 x 3.8-7 mm; Carpels 35-48; staminodes 1-6. Achenes hairy, elliptic, or rarely narrowly elliptic, narrowed to apex, compressed, margin thickened and distinct, surface unornamented or occ. ridged, (2.6-)3.0-4.5(-5.1) mm long, styles (15-)20-35(-40) cm long at fruiting, white-plumose for most of length, glabrous or with short hairs at base.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Similar to the white larger-flowered *C. paniculata*. Also similar to both *C. foetida* and *C. cunninghamii*, both of which have brownish hairs on young leaves and elsewhere. Closest to *C. petriei*, from which it can be distinguished by the yellow-green evenly coloured and near-glabrous above sepals and the narrower more pointed floral bracts.

## FLOWERING

September-March

## FLOWER COLOURS

Cream, Yellow

## FRUITING

October-April

## LIFE CYCLE

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

## ETYMOLOGY

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

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet by M.J. Thorsen. Description adapted from Heenan and Cartman (2000).

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Adams, N.M. 1951. *Clematis hexasepala*. *Wellington Botanical Society Bulletin* 51: 23

Anonymous. 1950. *Clematis colensoi*. *Wellington Botanical Society Bulletin* 23: 23

Heenan, P.B; Cartman, J. 2000: Reinstatement of *Clematis petriei* (Ranunculaceae), and typification and variation of *C. forsteri*. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 38: 575-585.

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.

## MORE INFORMATION

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