



## *Clematis vitalba*

### **Common Name(s):**

old man's beard

### **Current Threat Status (2009):**

Exotic

### **Habitat:**

Terrestrial. A plant of coastal and lowland areas. Plant grows in moderate to high fertile sites with medium to good drainage. The plant is light demanding. Plant grows in tall forest, low forest, scrub and shrubland. Occurs in reserves and forests with well-lit forest margins and wide tracks, waterways or clearings, riparian vegetation, exotic or native. The plant occurs in forest remnants.

### **Features:**

Deciduous, climbing, layering, vine to 20 m tall. Stems very long, woody, with 6 prominent ribs (appear as furrows in older vines) and pale, easily rubbed-off bark. Leaves opposite, comprising 5 (rarely 3) widely spaced leaflets, falling in Autumn. Leaflets thin and papery, sparsely hairy, bluntly toothed or entire. Flowers 2-3 cm diam, creamy white, fragrant, Dec-May. Seeds grey, hairy, 2-3 mm long; with distinctive white-plumes, 3-4 cm long, in dense, fluffy clusters persisting over winter.

### **Flowering:**

December, January, February, March, April, May

### **Fruiting:**

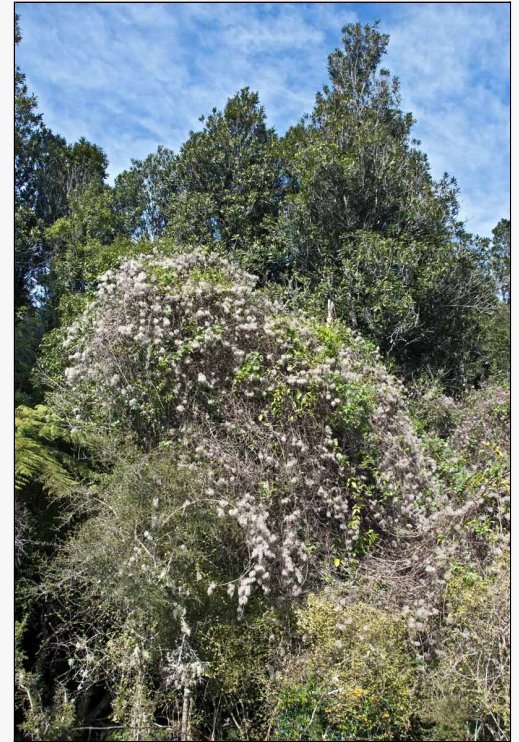
March-Oct

### **References and further reading:**

West, C. 1991. Literature Review of the Biology of Clematis Vitalba (old Man's Beard). Issue 725 of DSIR Land Resources vegetation report, Christchurch

### **For more information, visit:**

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=3721](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=3721)



**Caption:** Stronvar, eastern Wairarapa. Seed that has persisted over winter.

**Photographer:** Jeremy Rolfe



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