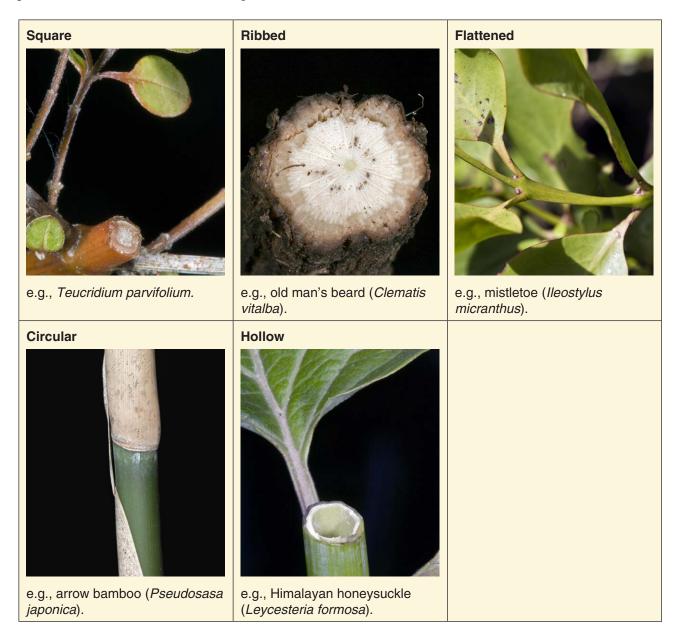
## 10. Stem and bark

The stem or trunk of a plant can be in various forms such as square, round or hollow. The mint family and related puriri family also have square or 4-angled stems. In some species only the young shoots are square, e.g., *Neomyrtus pedunculata*. Below are some stem shapes:



The surfaces of stems or trunks, including the bark of woody plants, also have many forms including fibrous, hammer marked, hairy or stringy. Stem and bark surfaces are shown below:

## Succulent Smooth (glabrous) Rough **Papery** Thin, dry and flaking. Soft, mucilaginous. Coarse and scratchy to Smooth exposed touch. epidermis. e.g., Crassula e.g., black maire e.g., kōtukutuku e.g., fennel (Foeniculum sieberiana. (Nestegis cunninghamii). (Fuchsia excorticata). vulgare). Prickly/thorny Hairy (hirsute) Grooved **Stringy** Fine or soft hairs. Generally vertical or Long, stringy serrations spiralled striations. on the bark or stem. e.g., matagouri (Discaria e.g., fireweed (Senecio e.g., lancewood e.g., old man's beard scaberulus). (Pseudopanax (Clematis vitalba). toumatou). crassifolius).

It is interesting to compare the trunk and bark features of the "big five" podocarps: rimu, kahikatea, tōtara, mataī, miro (see the pictures below).



Bark of the five podocarps, from left: rimu, kahikatea, tōtara, mataī, miro.

