

flowers reminded one of the flowers of garden mint but were much shorter. Along the stream bed were large patches of Lilaeopsis orbicularis, plentifully starred with its tiny white flowers. The inevitable batchelor's buttons (Cotula coronopifolia) was abundant and we found patches of the sand Gunnera (G. arenaria). We only found two or three stems bearing its buttercup yellow fruits - large for the size of the plant. I remember seeing a whole extensive mass of them in flower once on that stream bank, and they certainly made a show.

Some members amused themselves picking the rich brown heads of the raupo, or bulrush (Typha orientalis). The bulrush is neither a rush nor a reed, as the fruits show. The flower head, which is cylindrical and a rich brown, consists of enormous numbers of tightly packed flowers. The lower part of the spike, which is usually a darker brown and female, is often separated from the male part by a short length of bare stem. When the fruits ripen, they are adorned with silky hairs which enable them to be wind-born. So watch your dry arrangement, and at the least sign of ripening fruit remove the spike or you can spend a lot of time clearing up. When Typha grows in still waters its rhizomes will sometimes spread out gradually and form a floating mat on the surface.

We saw many other interesting plants, and indeed the swamp would be worth a second visit some other year.

---

#### CLEMATIS AFOLIATA.

Whilst on holiday in the South Island earlier this year, I was pleased to find Clematis afoliata in the Puhi Puhi valley near Kaikoura. Unfortunately the flowers were over but the feathery seeds were abundant. I collected some and sowed them on my return to Auckland. They were slow to germinate but I think that just about every seed made it in the end. The young seedlings are growing well now and if any member would like to try to grow this beautiful Clematis in Auckland I may have a few spare plants later on.

At this stage the plants are about  $\frac{1}{2}$ " high and have two or three small, dark green, ovate entire leaves. The flowers of this species are yellowish green and can be as large as  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter - they are strongly scented. The plant seems to be quite happy growing in rather dry sunny conditions. L.J. Metcalf, in his new book "The Cultivation of New Zealand Trees and Shrubs", suggests training the stems straight up a wall and then allowing them to grow over naturally and hang down, showing off their flowers to best advantage.