

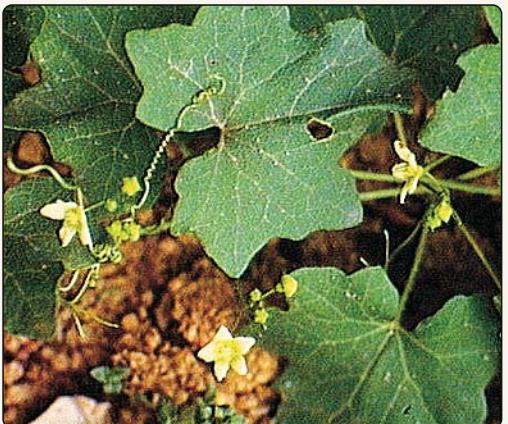
White bryony (*Bryonia dioica*)



Herb



Round fruit, yellow, turning red when ripe



Flowers are whitish with green veins

White bryony is a cucumber-like perennial vine that grows up to 6 m high. It is frost tolerant and could grow in open or disturbed forests, forest edges and hedgerows. It is toxic to livestock and humans.

This plant has a long, slender bristly stem that arises from a massive cylindrical tuber. The stem is soft and its tendrils allow it to climb. The leaves are 15 cm by 15 cm, with 5 lobes, dying back to the basal tuber in winter. The flowers are tubular, 2 cm long, whitish with green veins and appear between January and March. Its fruit is round, smooth-skinned, succulent, yellow, turning red.

Spread is by bird dispersed seeds.

White bryony is of very limited distribution in the wild in New Zealand. Any possible new sighting should be reported immediately to your Regional Council.