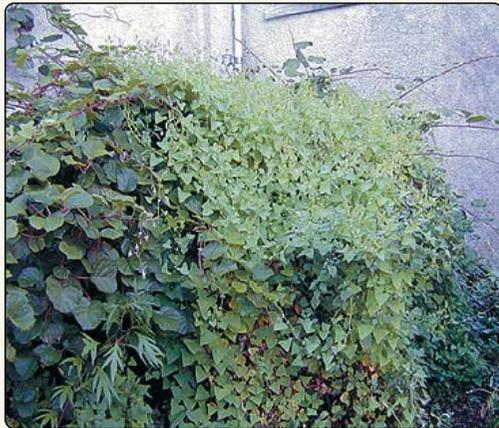


Devil's tail tearthumb (*Polygonum perfoliatum*)



Can reach heights of over 7m



Thin, triangular shaped light green leaves

Devil's tail is an annual vine that can reach heights of over 7m. It invades wet thickets and lowland riversides. The thin, light green leaves have a characteristic triangular shape and are 2-7cm wide. The veins on the underside of the leaf blade and the long leaf stalks have downward-pointed, curved barbs that serve as grappling hooks to help the plant climb. At the base of the leaf stalk is a prominent leaf-like cup of tissue surrounding the stem. Inconspicuous flowers are borne in small clusters on side branches and are followed by metallic blue, berry-like fruits in mid-autumn through to winter.

This plant is extremely rare in New Zealand, but has the potential to become a very serious problem. If you think you have found a new occurrence, contact your Regional Council immediately.