

## Moth plant (*Araujia sericifera*)



*Fruit is green and pear-shaped, 10 cm long*



*Fruit splits to disperse the silky tufted seeds*

Moth plant is a slender evergreen climbing vine with milky sap that bleeds from all damaged parts. It can grow up to 10 m high. It is common in northern parts of New Zealand in modified areas such as gardens, plantations and wastelands, as well as on several offshore islands.

Moth plant's stems are covered in fine hairs, the leaves are dark green and are arranged in opposite pairs. The sweetly scented flowers are white and bell-shaped, in clusters of 2 - 4, appearing from December to May. The fruit is green and pear-shaped, 10 cm long, thick and leathery. The fruit splits open to disperse the silky tufted seeds, which are carried by the wind.

Seedlings and small plants should be dug up and disposed of carefully. Larger plants can be cut back and the rooted stump or stumps painted with herbicide. Large infestations can be sprayed with herbicides, taking care to avoid contacting any of the plants the vines are growing on.

**Contact your Regional Council for advice on control methods.**