

Pest Plants

of the Wellington Region

Moth plant

Araujia sericifera

How do I identify moth plant?

Evergreen climbing vine that can grow up to **6 metres** high

Leaves: Dark green on top, greyish-green on the underside and **arrow shaped**. Older leaves may be **thick and wavy**

Flowers: Clusters of **cream** and tubular-shaped flowers with pinkish centre

Fruit: Spongy, green, wrinkled **fist-sized pods** that once dry split open releasing hundreds of black seeds with silky threads attached

Stems: Light yellow, softwood, may ooze a **sticky white sap** which may irritate some people's skin

Roots: Shallow taproot

Where found: Gardens, forest edges, wasteland, coastal areas

What's the problem?

- Moth plant is a fast-growing vine that grows into the tree canopy and forms large masses that rapidly smother and replace vegetation
- Mainly invades disturbed or low-canopy forest and forest margins

What do I do?

- If you suspect you have moth plant or have seen it somewhere in the Wellington region, please contact us and we'll come and have a look
- If it is moth plant, we will control it for free and record the sites location for future work

Fact:

Also known as 'cruel vine' it can trap moths and butterflies in its flowers causing a slow cruel death

