

# WANTED

## MOTH PLANT



**WANTED FOR: RAMPANTLY DESTROYING  
THE FOREST CANOPY**



Department of  
Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*





# 1. Moth plant

*Araujia hortorum*

## What is moth plant?

Moth plant is a harmful vine which can grow over other plants and trees, changing habitats and causing problems.

## Why is moth plant a problem for NZ?

This weed climbs up to the top of native trees, smothering them and weighing them down. It also blocks light for other plants. Moth plant can spread quickly, taking over large areas. Butterflies, moths and bees can get stuck in the sticky flowers.



Photo: Weedbusters



Photo: Corn Walker

## How do I know it's moth plant?

Leaves are shield shaped: narrow at the ends and wider at the top. Moth plant is a fast-growing vine that climbs up other trees and shrubs.

In summer or autumn you may see white- pink flowers or large pods (fruit as big as a fist). Moth plant stems have sticky, white poisonous sap.

## How does it spread?

Moth plant spreads very easily because each pod contains about 250- 1000 seeds that can parachute in the wind and travel large distances.



Photo: Weedbusters



**MOTH PLANT IS POISONOUS (ESPECIALLY THE WHITE SAP AND SEEDS). IT CAN CAUSE SKIN PROBLEMS AND IRRITATIONS. USE GLOVES WHEN HANDLING MOTH PLANT.**

For more detailed information about moth plant and how to control its spread see: [weedbusters.org.nz](http://weedbusters.org.nz)