



## *Araujia sericifera*

### **Common Name(s):**

moth plant, moth vine

### **Current Threat Status (2009):**

Exotic

### **Habitat:**

Terrestrial. coastal, lowland cliff, bluff, waste places and other modified habitats (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995).

### **Features:**

Rampant, evergreen vine to 10 m tall with smelly, milky sap. Stems twining, flexible, tough, downy, woody near base. Leaves opposite, 3-12 x 2-6 cm, dark green, hairless and dull above, greyish-downy below. Flowers bell-shaped, 20-25 mm diam, white, occ with pale pink streaks, usually in 2-4 clusters, Dec-May (can trap and kill insects). Distinctive pear-shaped choko-like pod, 10 x 7 cm, thick and leathery, containing kapok-like pulp, splits open dispersing many black, thistle down-like seeds.

### **Flowering:**

December, January,  
February, March, April, May

### **Fruiting:**

Autumn and winter  
(ARC, 1998).

### **For more information, visit:**

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=2542](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=2542)



**Caption:** Coromandel, Feb.

**Photographer:** John Smith-Dodsworth



**Caption:** Araujia sericifera showing flowers

**Photographer:** John Smith-Dodsworth