



Asparagus asparagoides

Common Name(s):

smilax

Current Threat Status (2009):

Exotic

Habitat:

Terrestrial. Thrives in impoverished soils, bare rock and volcanic soils. Likes good drainage. Coastal areas, open rocklands, shrubland, roadsides, hedges, wastelands, inshore and offshore islands. Plants are typically found under tree canopies which is largely due to bird movement but also reflects greater seedling establishment in leaf litter and better growth in shaded or part-shaded environments.

Features:

Scrambling or twining perennial. White, fleshy, tuberous roots in dense clusters. Stems to 3 m, green or slightly woody, twisted, thin and wiry, branched. Leaves are actually cladodes (flattened leaf-like stems), solitary at each node, 10-35 x 4- 15 mm, flat, ovalish, pointed, with approx. 7 veins. Flowers greenish-white, 5-6 mm, July-Aug. Round red berry, 6-10 mm, 2-8 tiny black seeds.

Flowering:

August, September, October

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=3480



Caption: Smilax rust (*Puccinia mysiphylli*) on undersides of leaves. Wanganui.

Photographer: Colin Ogle



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