



## *Celastrus orbiculatus*

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

climbing spindleberry; oriental bittersweet

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

Exotic

### **Habitat:**

Terrestrial. This aggressive, perennial, woody vine climbs on rocks and trees and sometimes covers the ground and vegetation (Hutchison 2000).

### **Features:**

Deciduous, hairless climber to 12 m high. Roots suckering. Stems round, woody, greyish-brown, layering. Young twigs green, often with sharp 1-2 mm spines. Leaves alternate, roundish, 5-10 cm long, finely serrated, yellowing before falling. Flowers insignificant, pale green. Seed capsule round, 6-8 mm diameter, yellow to orange, exposing scarlet arils. "Flowers are small, greenish-yellow, and usually become unisexual by abortion or reduction of male or female parts, thus the plants are usually dioecious. Occasional vines develop both unisexual and perfect flowers and are then termed polygamo-dioecious. Another reported variation is occasional monoecious plants, i.e. with both male and female flowers on the same vine."

<http://www.iucngisd.org/gisd/species.php?sc=156>

### **Flowering:**

November

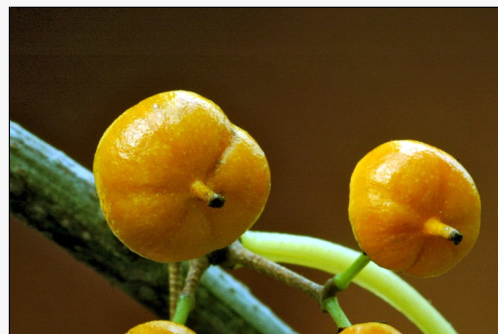
### **For more information, visit:**

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=3642](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=3642)



**Caption:** Stem spines. Whanganui. Apr 2011.

**Photographer:** Colin Ogle



**Caption:** Fruit. Whanganui. Apr 2011.

**Photographer:** Colin Ogle