**Araujia hortorum**

**Common name:**
Mothplant, Mothvine, Milk vine,
White moth plant, Cruel vine,

**Palatability to Livestock:**
Moderate.

**Toxicity to Goats:**
Low risk toxicity.

**Toxicity to Other Species:**
Toxic to poultry and cattle, and possibly to other species, including dogs.

**Poisonous Principle:**
Unknown.

**Effects:**
*Signs and symptoms;*
. Nervous signs, particularly a disturbed sense of balance.
. Staggering, vomiting, abdominal pain.

*Health and Production Problems;*
. The ripe fruits are more toxic than immature fruits for poultry.
. Sap can cause skin irritation in humans.
. Death within 24 hours in some cases, recovery in others.

*Treatment;*
. Be aware of potential stock problems.

**Integrated Control Strategy:**
. Try goats, pull out young plants, place fruits in disposable bags.
. Cut stump treatment, use neat glyphosates.
. Garden escapee.

**Comments:**
. A vigorous, perennial, thin, woody, twining vine, up to 5 metres tall.
. Large, long, opposite, arrow-shaped leaves, up to 10 cms long, occurring in pairs, dull green on the surface, whitish below.

. Flowers are white to pale pink, in small clusters, with five lobes, growing in spring to autumn.
. Fruits are large, spongy, pear-shaped capsules, maturing in late winter, becoming leathery and creased.
. Fruits split open to release many seeds with a tuft of white hairs.
. Plant can be dormant for several years.
. Woody stems contain latex which may cause irritation to the skin.
. Confined to the southern coastal areas and adjoining tablelands of Queensland, north and central coast of NSW.
. A native of Peru.
. Primarily a weed of wasteland, orchards, and along old fence lines.
. Rarely eaten by livestock, except goats.
. Insects may be caught in the flowers, attracts moths and butterflies in the evenings.

Picture: *Araujia hortorum*
Helen Simmonds. Calga NSW.

**Further Readings:**

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