

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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- . Blood. Environmental Weeds. Field Guide for SE Australia. CRC Weed Management Systems. 2003
- . Everist. Poisonous Plants of Australia. 1981
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- . McBarron. Poisonous Plants. Handbook. 1983.
- . Shepherd. Pretty but Poisonous. 2004.
- . Swarbrick and Skarratt. Bushweed 2 Database. 1997