

Madeira vine, mignonette vine, potato vine, lamb's tail vine

Anredera cordifolia, Basellaceae



- vigorous climber
- grows into the mid and high forest canopy
- weight of vine can cause underlying tree canopy to collapse
- bright green, thick, glossy, heart-shaped leaves arranged alternately on stem
- pinkish stems
- masses of sweet smelling creamy white flowers grow on long racemes and look like lamb's tails
- fruit and seed do not form in NZ
- aerial tubers form in leaf axils on older stems
- aerial tubers readily fall off and grow new plants
- underground tubers and rhizome fragments can also re-grow
- native to South America
- historically planted by Australian outdoor toilets as leaves were thought to act as a laxative



Photos: flower detail below, W. John; remainder, A. Stanton



Control: Eradicating madeira vine is complicated by the aerial tubers which fall off if the vine is pulled about. Tubers can be raked up from the ground, but any supporting trees need to be checked for any tubers which may have lodged among the branches. For all but small infestations it may be necessary to poison the vine to kill the tubers before they fall.