

Bryonia cretica subsp. dioica

COMMON NAME

white bryony

FAMILY

Cucurbitaceae

AUTHORITY

Bryonia cretica subsp. *dioica* (Jacq.) Tutin

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lianes & Related Trailing Plants - Dicotyledons

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Terrestrial. Disturbed and open forest and shrubland, stream edges

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Soft, summer-green, cucumber-like vine to 6 m tall, dying back in autumn to perennial tuber. Tubers brittle, branching, huge; branches 45-160 x 100- 800 cm, oriented vertical to horizontal. Stems arise from end of tuber, soft; with slender, coiling tendrils. Leaves to 15 x 15 cm, thin, 5-lobed, middle lobe longest. Flowers tubular, to 2 cm long, whitish with green stripes. Fruit round, 4-8 mm diam, smooth skinned, succulent, yellow turning red, many-seeded, 5-8 clustered.

SIMILAR TAXA

Sicyos australis (mawhai) (indigenous) has prickly 1-seeded fruits. *Tamus communis* (black Bryony) is also similar.

FLOWERING

December, January, February

FLOWER COLOURS

Green, White

FRUITING

Jan-march

LIFE CYCLE

Perennial. Spreads by seeds and vegetatively by tuber fragments. Many seeds contained within each fruit. Tuber fragments can spread via water, soil disturbance, garden refuse. Seed dispersed by birds.

YEAR NATURALISED

1991

ORIGIN

Eurasia/Mediterranean

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental

TOLERANCES

Tolerates wet to seasonal drought, warm to cool, variety of soils, semi shade. Poisonous so not browsed.



Makino Scenic Reserve, Rangitikei River. Jan 1998. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Bryonia cretica subsp. *dioica*, England. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

ETYMOLOGY

dioica: Two plants

NATIONAL PEST PLANT ACCORD SPECIES

This plant is listed in the 2020 National Pest Plant Accord. The National Pest Plant Accord (NPPA) is an agreement to prevent the sale and/or distribution of specified pest plants where either formal or casual horticultural trade is the most significant way of spreading the plant in New Zealand. For up to date information and an electronic copy of the 2020 Pest Plant Accord manual (including plant information and images) visit the [MPI website](#).

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/bryonia-cretica-subsp-dioica/>