

# Akebia quinata

## COMMON NAMES

akebia

## BIOSTATUS

Exotic

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lianes & Related Trailing Plants - Dicotyledons

## FLOWER COLOURS

Brown, Violet/Purple

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

A twining vine with palmate leaves comprising of five or less leaflets that are from 35 to 75 mm long. Has chocolate-purple coloured fragrant flowers 25mm across. Purple-violet flattened sausage shape pods to 100mm. (T. McCluggage pers com)

## SIMILAR TAXA

A climber with relatively large palmately compound leaves, *Akebia quinata* is quite distinctive in New Zealand. The fragrant chocolate-purple flowers that give rise to the common name chocolate vine are produced August to October.

## HABITAT

Terrestrial. In the open to semi shade along forest edges or road sides, climbing over structures or trees.

## GENUS

*Akebia*

## FAMILY

Lardizabalaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Akebia quinata* (Houtt.) Decne.

## FLOWERING

August, September, October

## FRUITING

February

## YEAR NATURALISED

1940

## ORIGIN

Japan, China, Korea

## REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental.

## TOLERANCES

Shade and drought tolerant. (T. McCluggage pers com)



Male flowers. In cult. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 12/09/2009, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Horoeka Scenic Reserve, Stokes Valley, Lower Hutt. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 02/10/2016, Licence: CC BY.

## LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Perennial. Spreads vegetatively and by seed. Plants are almost certainly wholly or partly self-sterile. Viable seed is produced. Humans (T. McCluggage pers com)

## ETYMOLOGY

**akebia:** An adaptation of the Japanese name for these plants

**quinata:** From the Latin quinque 'five', referring to the five-lobed leaves

## 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](#).

## ENVIRONMENTAL WEED (2024)

**This plant is named in a list of 386 environmental weeds in New Zealand 2024 prepared by DOC.** 759 candidate species were considered for inclusion on this new comprehensive list of environmental weeds in New Zealand. The species considered were drawn from published lists of weed species, lists of plants that must be reported or managed by law if observed, existing national and regional programmes and agreements for pest management, and species already managed by the Department of Conservation (DOC). Candidate species were then assessed to see if they were fully naturalised and whether they have more than minor impacts in natural ecosystems. Read the full report [here](#).

## NVS CODE

AKEQUI

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/akebia-quinata/>

## PDF DATE

27 May 2026