

# Arisarum vulgare

## COMMON NAME

Friar's cowl

## FAMILY

Araceae

## AUTHORITY

*Arisarum vulgare* Targ.Tozz.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Monocotyledonous Herbs

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not assessed

## DISTRIBUTION

A few widely scattered collections from NZ. First collected as a garden escape in Auckland in 2004, although there are much earlier (1950s) herbarium specimens of it in the Auckland Museum herbarium, which may be wild gatherings though the label information is unclear.

## HABITAT

Urban weed, spreading in and near gardens.

## FLOWERING

April - August

## FLOWER COLOURS

Green, Violet/Purple

## FRUITING

July - January

## LIFE CYCLE

Seed; tubers; colony expansion

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Vegetative extension of established plants, but seeds freely at times (see photos attached here); probably also spreads from dumped tubers in garden waste.

## YEAR NATURALISED

2004 (but see note above)

## ORIGIN

Mediterranean

## REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental

## ETYMOLOGY

**arisarum**: Possible from the Greek arista 'bristle' or 'awn' and arum, to which the genus is allied, referring to spathe of flower having a spike.

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/arisarum-vulgare/>



Auckland. Photographer: Peter de Lange



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