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Muehlenbeckia complexa

[Synonyms : *Muehlenbeckia axillaris*, *Muehlenbeckia nana*]

NEW ZEALAND WIRE VINE is a scrambling, semi-deciduous vine. Native to New Zealand it has minute fragrant greenish-white flowers.

It is also known as Australian ivy, Australian maiden's hair vine, Claspig mühlenbeckia, Maidenhair creeper, Maidenhair vine, Mattress vine, Mattress wireweed, Necklace vine, *Pohuehue* (Maori), Shrub pohuehue, Small-leaved pohuehue, Wiggy bush, Wireplant, and Wire vine.

The small glossy black fruit or seed are actually the swollen flowers and rest in a conspicuous edible fleshy waxy acorn-like white fruit cup.

Complexa means 'tangled, complex, embraced, encircled or surrounded' with reference to the tangled growth of the plant or to the fruit in an acorn-like cup.

The juicy sweet-tasting fruit are eaten raw or cooked.

This vine once provided food for the moa, an extinct gigantic New Zealand bird.

New Zealand wire vine is cultivated as an ornamental plant, sometimes specifically as ground cover and sometimes it is grown over frames to form various shapes.

It would seem to be an unwelcome introduction in parts of North America as it appears in a list of noxious weeds in California, especially in the Golden Gate National Recreational Area.