



# WHAU

(*Entelea arborescens*)

Understory



### **Description:**

- A fast growing tree. The wood is lighter than balsa
- Found mainly along the northern coastal forest edges. Frost tender
- Large pale green leaves with hairy stalks

### **Fruit & Flowers:**

- Masses of white flowers are produced spring to mid-summer
- Spiky seed capsules are initially green, turning brown as they mature and open up
- The seeds are dark and non-fleshy. Great food for the herbivores such as the native pigeon and kakariki

### **Pests / Diseases:**

- Whau appear to have few diseases or pests. However due to their rapid growth and light wood they are relatively short lived

### **Uses:**

- Being such a lightweight wood whau was used as fishing floats
- In more recent times they have been extensively used in amenity landscaping. Throughout the Spaghetti Junction interchange for example