PLANT FACT SHEET

Microsorum scolopendria (Burm.f.) Copel

GENUS *Microsorum* **FAMILY** Polypodiaceae

COMMON NAMES Maile-scented fern, Wart fern

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Rhizome, Fronds

DESCRIPTION

This fern has a rhizome which is long and creeping. The fern grows to 65 cm high. The rhizome is fleshy, green and up to 8 mm across. It is sparsely covered with light brown scales. The fronds are light green and up to 10-60 cm long and 25-30 cm wide. The base of the frond is swollen. They have a variable number of lobes which are 4-15 cm long. The sori are 2-3 mm across and situated near the mid vein. They form 2 or 3 rows on each side of the rib. Some kinds have a vanilla-like smell when crushed.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It is a hardy tropical species often found on trees or rocks in protected places near the edges of rainforest. It grows up to 2,100 m above sea level. It suits humid locations. They are frost tender. It grows best in light shade. It can tolerate wind and some salt spray.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from spores or division of the rhizome. They are easily grown or transplanted.

NOTES

There are about 60 Microsorum species. They grow in the tropics.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/13ba4af6-4a1a-451f-943b-d87511fd39e8