PLANT FACT SHEET

Diplazium proliferum (Lam.) Thouars

GENUS *Diplazium* **FAMILY** Athyriaceae

COMMON NAMES Kumugras, fern

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Fronds

The fronds are edible.

DESCRIPTION

A fern with a tufted, woody, black rhizome covered with black scales. The trunk is short. The plant forms rounded clumps. The stem of the fronds is triangular in cross section. It is spiny. The fronds are erect and up to 2 m long. They arch over. They are fleshy and pale green. The blade is up to 60 cm long. The leaflets are 2-3 cm wide and 15 cm long. The leaflets are in one row with the base ending abruptly. These leaflets are curved and with a scalloped edge. The top end has a tail. The spore or fruit spots are brown in double rows between the ribs. The spore groups are arranged in long V shaped pairs under the fronds. Small plantlets often grow along the fronds on the upper half. The mature fronds often have small bulbils or plantlets growing in their leaf axils.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It occurs in the tropical lowlands. It likes hot humid places. It occurs in East and West New Britain and Manus in Papua New Guinea. It often grows along creeks. It grows in rainforest. The fronds are brittle and easily damaged by the wind. It can grow in shady places. It occurs from Polynesia to Australia and in Africa. It is usually found near streams. In Indonesia it grows from sea level to 1,200 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown from the small plantlets on the fronds. It is best to grow it in soil, in gardens. It can be grown from spores.

NOTES

There are 3 Callipteris species. Also put in the family Aspleniaceae.

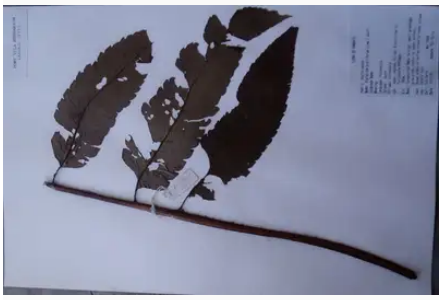
PICTURES



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