PLANT FACT SHEET

Epipremnum pinnatum (L.) Engler

GENUS *Epipremnum* **FAMILY** Araceae

COMMON NAMES False Monsteriosa, Native Monstera

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaf stalk starch, Fruit

Starch is extracted from the leaf stalk.
CAUTION The sap can irritate the skin.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen vine. It climbs to 6 -50 m high. The stem is slender and fibrous but fleshy. The leaves are green and shiny. They are oval or sword shaped. The leaves can be 70 cm long by 40 cm wide and hang downwards. The form a point towards the tip. The leaves are deeply divided, although forms occur with entire leaves. The leaf stalk is about the same length as the leaf. The flowers are dense fleshy spikes. This is 15-20 cm long. The flower is surrounded by a large green boat shaped bract. The flower spikes contain both sexes where the female flowers are lower. These are followed by fruit. The berry is united into a composite red fruit.

HABITAT

A tropical and subtropical plant. It grows best with warm conditions and high humidity. It is best with light shade. It is damaged by drought and frost. They need good drainage. It suits hardiness zones 10-12. In Yunnan. It occurs in the Western Ghats in India.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It is grown from runners which are put in water to form roots. Plants need then to be put in shady humid situations and can be trained to climb up trees. Plants can be grown from fresh seed or from stem cuttings.

Harvesting and Seed Production

In Australia it flowers in December to March.

NOTES

There are 15-18 Epipremnum species. It can be invasive.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

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