PLANT FACT SHEET

# *Colocasia gigantea* (Blume ex Hassk.) Hook.f.

**GENUS** *Colocasia* **FAMILY** Araceae

**COMMON NAMES** Talas Padang

## EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

**Edible parts:** Leaves, Fruit, Spice, Petioles, Flowers

The fruit are used as a flavouring.
They are also eaten as a snack.
The leaf stalks are eaten as a vegetable. They are well cooked.
The leaves are also cooked and eaten. They are used in curries.

## DESCRIPTION

An erect herb. It is fleshy and produces latex. It grows 2 m tall. It has a tuberous underground stem. The leaves are flattened with the leaf stalk attached to the middle of the lower surface. The leaves have 2 lobes at the base. The leaf stalk is 1.5 m long. It is light green. The leaf blade is oval in outline and 25-120 cm long by 17-35 cm wide. The lobes at the base point downwards and are joined for half their length. The flower is a lily like flower with a fleshy stem and enclosed in a spathe. The tubular part is 3-8 cm long. The fruit is an oblong berry. It is about 1 cm long.

## HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in valley forests, swamps, also cultivated between 100-700 m in China. It suits shady sites. It is often on limestone hills. Adelaide Botanical Gardens. Melbourne Botanical gardens. In XTBG Yunnan. In Sichuan.

## PRODUCTION

### Cultivation

Plants can be grown from sections of the rhizome.

## NOTES

There are 8 Colocasia species.

## PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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