PLANT FACT SHEET

Use with caution

This plant can be harmful if it is eaten raw, in large amounts or without the right preparation. Read the whole fact sheet before use.

Syngonium podophyllum Schott

GENUS *Syngonium* **FAMILY** Araceae

COMMON NAMES Arrowhead vine

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

Most Araceae can contain calcium oxalate that burns the lips and throat.
The fruit pulp is eaten raw.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen climbing vine. It has roots that attach, to help it climb. It can be 10 m long. The young leaves are simple and green or with white patterns. They are 7-14 cm long. The leaf stalk is 15-60 cm long. The older leaves are divided to the leaf stalk and with 3 parts to the side lobes. The flowers are in a spike in the axils of leaves. The flowers are cream or white. The spike is 1-2 cm long. It has a yellow or white spathe around the flower spike. The fruit is a multiple fruit. It is 3-7 cm long and can be yellow, orange or red. The seeds are brown or black.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It suits hardiness zones 9-12. It needs an even moisture. It needs a reasonably fertile and well drained soil. It can grow in part shade. In tropical Australia it grows from sea level to 10 m altitude. In Central America it grows from 100 - 550 m altitude.

PRODUCTION

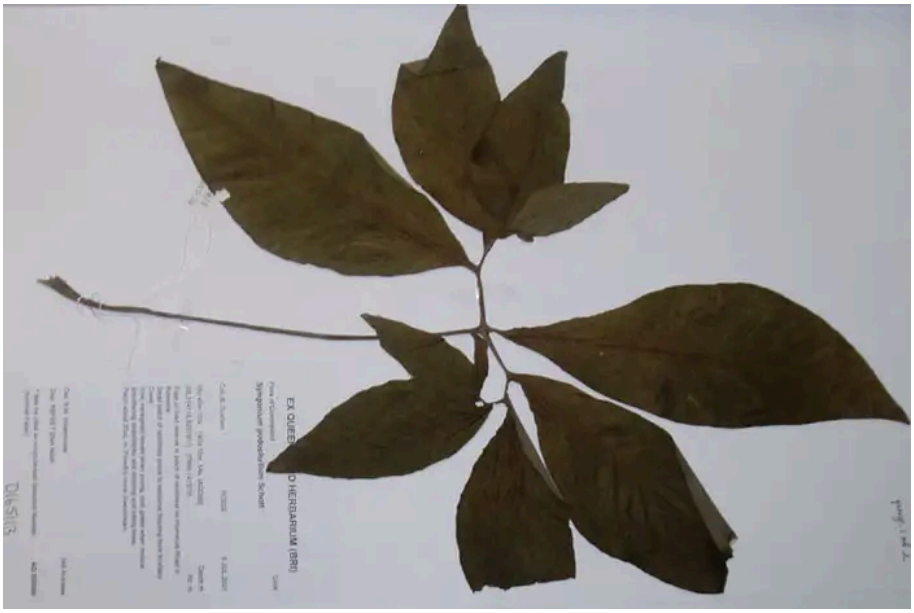
Cultivation

It can be grown from broken pieces of the stem.

NOTES

There are 36 Syngonium species. It can become a problem plant to control in some locations. It can be invasive.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

REFERENCES

Altschul, S.V.R., 1973, Drugs and Foods from Little-known Plants. Notes in Harvard University Herbaria. Harvard Univ. Press. Massachusetts. no. 143

Bot. Zeitung (Berlin) 9:85. 1851 (Syn. Aroid. 68. 1856)

Burkill, I.H., 1966, A Dictionary of the Economic Products of the Malay Peninsula. Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Vol 2 (I-Z) p 2155

Cooper, W. and Cooper, W., 2004, Fruits of the Australian Tropical Rainforest. Nokomis Editions, Victoria, Australia. p 62

Daly, D. C., An Index of Common Names of Plants in Acre, Brazil. New York Botanical Garden Universidade Federal do Acre.

Fouqué, A. 1972. Espèces fruitières d'Amérique tropicale. Institut français de recherches fruitierès outre-mer (ifac) (As Syngonium vellozianum)

Hibbert, M., 2002, The Aussie Plant Finder 2002, Florilegium. p 295

http://www.b-and-t-world-seeds.com/Aroideth.htm

http://www.botanic-gardens-ljubljana.com/en/plants (Also as Syngonium vellozianum)

Kermath, B. M., et al, 2014, Food Plants in the Americas: A survey of the domesticated, cultivated and wild plants used for Human food in North, Central and South America and the Caribbean. On line draft. p 846

Llamas, K.A., 2003, Tropical Flowering Plants. Timber Press. p 87

Marinelli, J. (Ed), 2004, Plant. DK. p 469

NYBG herbarium 'edible"

Piedra-Malagón, E. M. et al, 2022, Edible native plants of the Gulf of Mexico Province. Biodiversity Data Journal 10: e80565 p 11

Recher, P, 2001, Fruit Spirit Botanical Gardens Plant Index. www.nrg.com.au/~recher/ seedlist.html p 7

Roa, J. A. G. & Boada, D. S. G., 2018, Fundación para el Fortalecimiento de la Fruticultura y Plantas Alimenticias no Convencionales en Colombia. (Also as Syngonium vellozianum)

Segura, S. et al, 2018, The edible fruit species in Mexico. Genet Resour Crop Evol (2018) 65:1767–1793

Staples, G.W. and Herbst, D.R., 2005, A tropical Garden Flora. Bishop Museum Press, Honolulu, Hawaii. p 612 (Drawing)

Steyermark, J. A. et al., eds. 1995–. Flora of the Venezuelan Guayana (As Syngonium vellozianum)

Thaman, R. R, 2016, The flora of Tuvalu. Atoll Research Bulletin No. 611. Smithsonian Institute p 40

PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

LICENCE CC BY-NC-SA 3.0

ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/a096ee64-3d84-4d81-85ca-3588f6138262