

Colocasia esculenta

COMMON NAMES

Taro

FAMILY

Araceae

AUTHORITY

Colocasia esculenta (L.) Schott

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Monocots

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Widely cultivated in many different forms.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACW: Facultative Wetland

Usually is a hydrophyte but occasionally found in uplands (non-wetlands).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Robust perennial to about 2 m tall in good conditions. Very large ovate-cordate leaves to 50 cm long, with the stalk attached well inside the leaf margin. Very variable, leaves and stalks can be white mottled, green, reddish or purple tinged to almost black. The flower is stout and shorter than the petioles. Plants seldom flower and fruit even more rarely.

SIMILAR TAXA

Can be distinguished from other members of the Araceae family by the shield-like leaves with the stalk attached well inside the leaf margin (peltate).

FLOWER COLOURS

Orange

LIFE CYCLE

Plants rarely fruit, most reproduction is vegetative from fragments. Seed is rarely produced.

YEAR NATURALISED

1867

ORIGIN

Wild in S.E. Asia; cultivated throughout the Pacific.

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Unknown

POISONOUS PLANT

All parts of the plant are poisonous. The roots and leaves may be eaten after cooking.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/colocasia-esculenta/>



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