

Botanical name
Genus: *Microsorium*
Species: *Pteropus*

Common Name(s):
Java or Crocodile fern

Latin Family Name:
Polypodiaceae

English Family Name: Polypod

More than 50 species are found across Asia and Australia.

The plant

Origin; country or region: Tropical regions of Southern hemisphere

Growth habit: The species are a tropical perennial fern

Like most ferns, they grow from rhizomes, rather than roots

Flower description: NA

Blooming period/availability: Perennial

Leaf/Foliage Description: The leaves are deep green, crinkly and leathery and quite tough

Usage: *Microsorium pteropus* is a water fern from Asia

STRENGTHS/OPPORTUNITIES:

Various sizes are available

Because of its height, it's a good choice as a background plant for an aquarium

A good choice in an aquarium or pond setting populated with herbaceous fish such as koi and goldfish

This plant can be attached directly onto driftwood, rocks or any aquarium decoration using thread or glue

May look attractive - can make a statement

May be suitable for hanging baskets - fronds droop gracefully from hanging baskets

WEAKNESS:

Does not do well in soil

Can look messy



Care & Handling

Longevity: 5 years plus

Water requirements: This plant is a freshwater plant, but it can tolerate some salty water

Light: Java Fern is a low light plant

It cannot tolerate very bright aquarium lights or excessive exposure to the sun

Soil/Nutrition requirements: Java fern not only doesn't need soil, but it also doesn't like soil

Special care/remarks: Don't be alarmed if you see black lines and/or brown or black bumps on your plants' leaves

The lines are the plants' veins, and the bumps are the spores that will grow into baby plants

