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Philodendron radiatum

[Synonyms : *Philodendron dubium*, *Philodendron impolitum*]

DOUBTFUL PHILODENDRON is an evergreen climbing shrub. Native from Central America to Colombia it has spikes (or spadices) of fleshy white flowers each shielded by fleshy, often red and purple-marked, white to greenish-yellow leaflike spathes.

It is also known as Dubia philodendron.

Warning – species in this genus can be poisonous if eaten.

Radiatum is Latin (provided with rays or spokes) meaning ‘with rays or radiating’.

The aerial roots have been used to make baskets.

Medicinally, local treatments for rickets and rheumatism have included bathing in a leaf decoction.