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Philodendron scandens var. *oxycardium*

[Synonyms : *Philodendron cordatum*, *Philodendron dubium*, *Philodendron hederaceum*,
Philodendron isertianum, *Philodendron micans*, *Philodendron oxycardium*]

CLIMBING PHILODENDRON is an evergreen climbing vine. Native to tropical America it has spikes (spadix) of minute white flowers each shielded by a large petal-like, often red and purple marked, white to greenish-yellow leaf (spathe).

It is also known as Heartleaf philodendron, and Sweetheart plant.

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

Scandens is derived from Latin *scandere* (climbing) meaning ‘climbing or twining’.

Oxycardium is derived from Greek *oxy-* (sharp, acute) and *cardio-* (heart) components meaning ‘heart-shaped leaf with a long point’.

Climbing philodendron is most familiar in temperate climates as a houseplant and under these conditions authorities note that the plant does not flower.

American research at NASA at the turn of the 20th and 21st Centuries has identified useful air purification qualities in spearhead philodendron. Apparently they are believed to be able to dissipate formaldehyde present in interior environments.