

TRADESCANTIA SPATHACEA

Kingdom: Plantae

Division: Angiosperms

Clade: Monocots

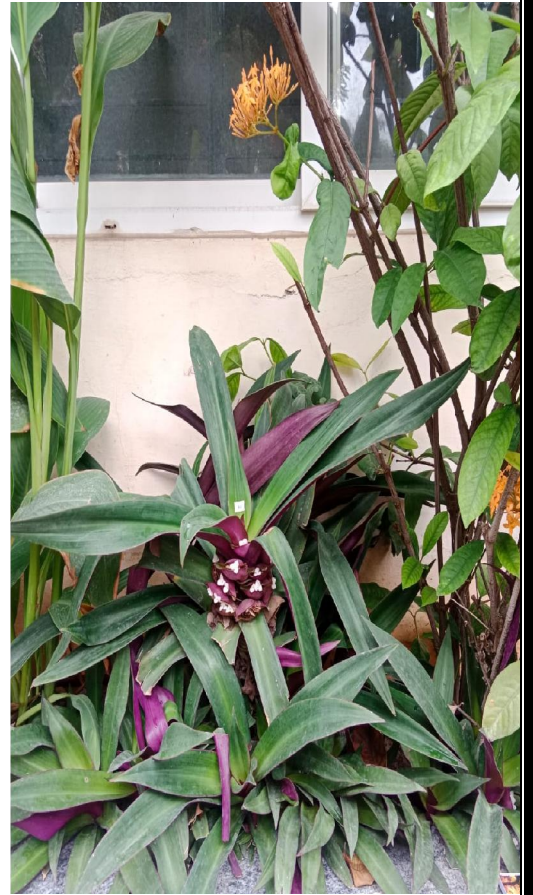
Class: Commelinids

Order: Commelinales

Family: Commelinaceae

Genus: Tradescantia

Species: *T. spathacea*



NATIVITY OF THE PLANT

Belize, Guatemala, and southern México (Chiapas, Tabasco, and the Yucatán Peninsula) and is widely cultivated as an ornamental houseplant; it has become naturalized in parts of coastal Southern California, Florida, Hawaii, Louisiana, Texas, and various Pacific and Indian Ocean islands.

ABOUT THE PLANT

Tradescantia spathacea, also called the RHOEO, oyster plant, boat lily or 'Moses-in-the-cradle', is an herb in the Commelinaceae family which was first described in 1788.

Tradescantia spathacea has naturalized in parts of coastal Southern California, Florida, Hawaii, Louisiana, Texas, and various Pacific and Indian Ocean islands and is listed as a Category II invasive exotic species by the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council. "This means Invasive exotics that have increased in abundance or frequency but have not yet altered Florida plant communities to the extent shown by Category I species. These species may become ranked Category I if ecological damage is demonstrated. The plant is used for cold, sore throat and whooping cough. It is also used as an anti-inflammatory and anti-cancer properties. Leaves boiled and made into a purple-coloured herbal tea to relieve body heat.

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