

Botanic name : *Nephrodium molle* (SW.) R.Br.

Common name : Information needed

Family : Dryopteridaceae

Habitat : Facultative wetland

Distribution : Indian Himalayas, SE Asia, West Africa; widespread in tropical Asia and America up to 2400 m (msl)

Description : Stem rhizomatous; rhizome erect with lanceolate entire or ciliate often thinly pilose scales brown to dark brown. Fronds tufted, 0.3–1 m tall. Stipe lightly pubescent with minute whitish hairs and scaly at base. Lamina lanceolate, deeply bi-pinnatifid, 25–60 cm in length, ± 30 cm wide, acuminate at apex with deeply pinnatifid terminal segment; middle pinnae 8–16 cm long, 1.2–2.2 cm wide, narrowly oblong, acuminate, deeply pinnatifid; lower 2–4 pair of pinnae deflexed and somewhat reduced; lobes narrowly oblong, falcate, entire, obtuse, surface pubescent and sometimes with small capitate hairs; veins 7–8 pairs, the basal pair anastomosing at a very obtuse angle below the sinus with next pair to edge of sinus. Indusium hairy.

Phytochemicals: Coumarins, quinones, cardiac glycosides, alkaloids, triterpenoids, polyphenols, anthocyanins, tannins, saponins, anthraquinones

Medicinal/Economic uses : Purgative, antidiabetic, antibacterial; used to treat spermatorrhea, gout and rheumatism in NW Pakistan. In India, ethno-pharmacological preparation includes the process-a small portion of the rhizome is powdered and taken with water twice a day in rheumatism, epilepsy & leprosy. Rhizome also used to cure swellings, pain and fungal infection. The whole plant is crushed in a bowl and the obtained extract is given twice a day orally, in case of snake bite. Plant paste is also employed on the bite wound to prevent infection.