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SUBJECT: Patch tests for irritancy - some common house plants.

By way of florist wholesalers and the botanical gardens, a collection of plants was assembled which includes those most commonly grown in the house in this geographical area.

A portion of fresh leaf was applied, as is, to the skin of the back of two apparently healthy white adult males for 48 hours under a plastic type patch, i.e. Duke No. 71 (Duke Laboratories Inc., South Norwalk, Conn. 06354, U.S.A.). No irritant reactions were observed. No spontaneous flares were observed to 10 days.

By this particular method, it appears that the leaf is not strongly irritant.

Under various other conditions of exposure (ingestion, industrial, etc.) some of these plants or their relatives (e.g. Araceae) have been reported to cause mucous membrane or skin reaction and the present report serves as a minimal base-line for further investigation. Croton oil, by the way, is derived from Croton not from the plant commonly called Croton.

Dr. Roy Taylor, Botanical Gardens, The University of British Columbia provided taxonomic information.

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|----|----------------|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Podocarpaceae | <u>Podocarpus macrophylla</u> | "Buddhist Plant" |
| 2 | Araceae | <u>Anthurium scolopendrinum</u> | |
| 3 | Crassulaceae | <u>Crassula argentea</u> | "Jade Plant" |
| 4 | Adiantaceae | <u>Adiantum decorum</u> | A species of "Maidenhair Fern" |
| 5 | Agavaceae | <u>Cordylina terminalis</u> | "Red dracaena" |
| 6 | Begoniaceae | <u>Begonia x erythrophylla</u> | "Beefsteak begonia" |
| 7 | Zingiberaceae | <u>Amomum cardamon</u> | "Cardamon" |
| 8 | Agavaceae | <u>Dracaena godseffiana</u> | "Gold-dust Dracaena" |
| 9 | Araucariaceae | <u>Araucaria excelsa</u> | "Norfolk Island Pine" |
| 10 | Compositae | <u>Senecio cruentus (Cineraria)</u> | "Florist's Cineraria" |
| 11 | Vitidaceae | <u>Cissus rhombifolia</u> | 'Mandaiana' Grape Ivy |
| 12 | Moraceae | <u>Ficus lyrata</u> | "Fiddleleaf Plant" |
| 13 | Commelinaceae | <u>Rhoeo spathacea 'vittata'</u> | "Purple-leaved Spiderwort" |
| 14 | Peperomiaceae | <u>Peperomia obtusifolia 'Variegata'</u> | "Variegated Oval-leaf Peperomia" |
| 15 | Agavaceae | <u>Sansevieria trifasciata 'Hakni'</u> | "Birdsnest Sansevieria" |
| 16 | Araceae | <u>Philodendron 'rubrum'</u> | "Philodendron" |
| 17 | Araliaceae | <u>Brassaia actinophylla</u> | (= <u>Schefflera macrostachya</u> - "Queensland Umbrella Tree") |
| 18 | Araliaceae | <u>Dizygotheca elegantissima</u> | "False Aralia" |
| 19 | Euphorbiaceae | <u>Acalypha wilkesiana var. macafeana</u> | "Copperleaf" |
| 20 | Liliaceae | <u>Aspidistra elatior</u> | "Common Aspidistra" |
| 21 | Araceae | <u>Aglaonema 'parrot jungle'</u> | 'Louisae' Zebra Plant |
| 22 | Acanthaceae | <u>Aphelandra squarrosa</u> | "Giant Dumb Cane" |
| 23 | Araceae | <u>Dieffenbachia amoena</u> | "Prayer Plant" |
| 24 | Marantaceae | <u>Maranta leuconeura 'kerchoveana'</u> | Dwarf Palm (Palmae) If it is a tree palm in miniature then it is <u>C. elegans 'bella'</u> |
| 25 | Palmae | <u>Chamaedorea elegans (stated = Neanthe)</u> | (<u>Neanthe bella</u>), whereas <u>C. elegans</u> ("Palour Palm") grow to 8 feet. |
| 26 | Compositae | <u>Senecio greyii</u> | |
| 27 | Agavaceae | <u>Phormium tenax var. atropurpureum</u> | "New Zealand Fiber-lily" |
| 28 | Commelinaceae | <u>Tradescantia fuscata = Siderasis fuscata</u> | "Brown Spiderwort" |
| 29 | Amaryllidaceae | <u>Hippeastrum hybrid</u> | |
| 30 | Euphorbiaceae | <u>Codiaeum variegatum var. pictum</u> | "Variegated Croton" |
| 31 | Araliaceae | <u>Hedera helix 'Glacier'</u> | "Glacier Ivy" |
| 32 | Moraceae | <u>Ficus elastica 'Decora'</u> | "Indian Rubber Plant" |
| 33 | Asclepiadaceae | <u>Hoya carnosa 'variegata'</u> | "Variegated Wax Plant" |
| 34 | Primulaceae | <u>Primula x kewensis</u> | (= <u>P. floribunda x P. verticillata</u>) |