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Antirrhinum majus

SNAPDRAGON is a perennial. Native to the Mediterranean it has small yellow throated, pink or reddish purple flowers.

It is also known as Antirrhinum, Chooky pigs, Common snapdragon, *Dgeule-dé-lion* (Channel Islander-Jersey Norman-French), Dog's mouth, Garden snapdragon, *Goule de yon* (Channel Islander-Guernsey), *Halq-as-saba'* (Arabic), *Hledik větší* (Czech), *Leeuwenbek* (Dutch), *Leijonankita* (Finnish), *Lejongap* (Swedish), Lion mouth, Lion's snap, *Löwenmäul* (German), *Löwenmäulchen* (German), *Papocci yomor* (Maltese), *Papulka väčšia* (Slovak), Rabbit's mouth, Toad's mouth, and *Trwyn y Llo Mwyaf* (Welsh); and in flower language is said to be a symbol of indiscretion, no, and presumption.

There are many colourful varieties some of which are now scented. The flowers are pollinated by bumble-bees.

Majus is derived from Latin *maior* (greater) meaning 'greater, bigger or larger'.

At one time snapdragon was believed to have protective powers against the evil eye, and it was also believed that anyone anointed with the seed oil would be destined for fame.

The seeds yield an oil that some say is a virtual match for olive oil. With this oil in mind Russia has cultivated the plant in large quantities in the past.

Today research is being undertaken into the viability of growing the flowers in greenhouses on a commercial scale for the cut flower market.

It is the birthday flower for 28th June.