

You are viewing one of thousands of biographies – click below for more, including Search box and access to Plant associated organisations.

[Plant Biographies](#)

[Bibliography](#)

---

*Aristolochia rotunda*

**SNAKEROOT** is a perennial. Native to southern Europe it has unpleasant smelling, heavily marked, yellow flowers that are white outside.

It is also known as Round-leaved birthwort, and Smearwort.

Warning – strong doses of the root are extremely poisonous and can cause nasal inflammation, enteritis, vomiting and paralysis. It should only be used under the supervision of a qualified practitioner.

*Rotunda* is Latin (round, circular) meaning ‘rounded’.

Medicinally, the roots have been taken as a tonic particularly in Iran, and they have also been used to treat fluid retention, period problems and intestinal worms.