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*Asclepias*

*Apocynaceae*

[*Asclepiadaceae*]

*Asclepias* chosen by North American physicians (especially for pleurisy root, *Asclepias tuberosa*) honours the Greek god of healing Asclepius (Asklepios in Greek and Aesculapius in Latin) with reference to the plants' medicinal properties.

At least 14 of the many species in this genus are the host plant for Monarch butterflies and it is understood that the introduction of these plant species to new lands has also led to colonization by migratory Monarch butterflies. For instance they were found in Hawaii from about 1845, in the South Pacific Islands known as the Marquesas from about 1860, Australia from about 1870 and New Zealand from about 1874.