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Daemonorops draco

[Synonyms : *Calamus draco*]

DRAGON'S BLOOD is a climbing palm. Native to Malaysia and Sumatra (now an Indonesian island) it has rope-like stems.

It is also known as Dracorubin, Dragon's blood palm, Dragon's palm, and *Hiradukhi* (Hindi); and in flower language (as for all palms) is said to be a symbol of victory.

Draco is derived from Greek *dracont-* (dragon) component.

Dragon's blood was once an ingredient in mouthwashes and toothpastes.

It is interesting to note that marble can be stained a deep red by a solution of dragon's blood in alcohol and that the heat of the marble will determine the depth of the colour's penetration.

Today the resin is used commercially in photo-engraving and as a colouring agent in varnishes and lacquers (giving a mahogany-coloured stain). The stems are a source of rattan used for making furniture.

Medicinally, the resin has been used to treat dysentery, diarrhoea and eye disorders.