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Dichorisandra reginae

[Synonyms : *Tradescantia reginae*, *Tradescantia superba*]

QUEEN'S SPIDERWORT is an evergreen perennial. Native to central Peru and to Brazil it has small, violet-blue or white flowers.

Reginae is Latin (queen) meaning 'of the Queen' in this case Marie-Henriette (1836-1902), Queen of Belgium with Leopold II.

In 1890 queen's spiderwort was introduced to Belgium and exhibited the following year at the Brussels Exposition. Here it attracted the particular attention of the Queen of the Belgians and the botanists named it, in her honour, *Tradescantia reginae*. But it was never closely examined until the 1950s when botanists at Cornell University realized that it had been incorrectly named and was actually a member of a different genus in the same family, *Dichorisandra*.