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Dracaena cinnabari

[Synonyms : *Draco cinnabari*]

SOCOTRINE DRAGON'S BLOOD is an evergreen shrub. It is native to Socotra (Indian Ocean).

It is also known as Socotra dragon tree, and Zanzibar drop.

Socotrine dragon's blood was known to both the ancient Greeks and the Romans but authorities indicate that its source was long clouded by a belief that the material was of animal not vegetable origin. Not only does it seem that the Roman natural historian, Pliny (23-79) believed that the red resin was an animal's blood but well into the 16th Century Europeans also actually thought the resin was dragon's blood spilt in conflict with elephants. (No doubt as in other instances the Arab traders who transported it to the Mediterranean from the Indian Ocean encouraged these fantasies in order to protect their sources and the profits on their merchandise.)