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*Dracunculus vulgaris*

[Synonyms : *Arum dracunculus*, *Arum guttatus*, *Dracunculus creticus*]

**DRAGON ARUM** is a perennial. Native to southern Europe and the Mediterranean it has a green leaf-like spathe (deep purple-red inside) shielding a shiny black-purple spike (spadix).

It is also known as Adderwort, Arum arrowroot, Brook leek, Common dracunculus, Common dragon, Devil's tongue, Dragon, Dragon lily, Dragon plant, *Drakodia* (Greek), *Drakovec obecny* (Czech), *Drakunkolo ordinara* (Esperanto), Faverole, Female dragon, *Garni qoxret is-serp* (Maltese), *Gewöhnliche Schlangenwurz* (German), Giant lords-and-ladies, Green dragon, Great dragon, Indian turnip, Snake grass, Snake plant, and Stink lily: and in flower language is said to be a symbol of snare.

The smell attracts carrion flies.

Warning – the plant can be poisonous and is avoided by grazing animals.

*Vulgaris* means 'common'.

In some parts of the Mediterranean smoke from the burning underground stems was once used to fumigate livestock and destroy parasites. The plant was also used for medicinal purposes for human beings. It was even said that it was drunk in wine as an aphrodisiac.