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Dracunculus vulgaris

[Synonyms : *Aron dracunculum*, *Arum dracunculus*, *Arum guttatum*, *Arum guttatus*, *Dracunculus creticus*, *Dracunculus vulgaris* var. *creticus*, *Dracunculus vulgaris* var. *elongatus*, *Dracunculus vulgaris* var. *laevigatus*]

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 blackish-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 obecný* (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 perennial's smell attracts carrion flies.

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

Vulgaris means 'common'.

It was said that it was once drunk in wine as an aphrodisiac.

In some parts of the Mediterranean smoke from the burning underground stems was once used to fumigate livestock and destroy parasites.

Medicinally, the tubers, fruit and seeds have been used in Turkey for treating piles and rheumatism.