

Gloriosa superba

[Synonyms : *Clinostylis speciosa*, *Gloriosa abyssinica*, *Gloriosa carsonii*, *Gloriosa homblei*, *Gloriosa minor*, *Gloriosa rothschildiana*, *Gloriosa simplex*, *Gloriosa speciosa*, *Gloriosa virescens*, *Methonica gloriosa*]

CLIMBING LILY is a deciduous climbing, bulbous perennial. Native to tropical Africa and tropical Asia it has large, yellow at their base melting into deep orange and red at the petal tips flowers that are sometimes green-striped.

It is also known as *Adavi nabhi* (Telugu), African honeysuckle, *Agnimukhi* (Sanskrit), *Agnisikha* (Sanskrit), *Agni sikha* (Telugu), *Agnisikhe* (Kannada), *Agnisikhha* (Telugu), *Ailni* (Sanskrit), *Akkinichilam* (Tamil), *Al bâhir al hindîyah* (Arabic), *Anaravan* (Tamil), *Bachnag* (Hindi), *Bishalanguli* (Bengali), Common gloriosa, Creeping lily, *Dudhio* (Gujarati), *Dudhiyo bachnag* (Gujarati), Flame lily, *Flammelilje* (Norwegian), *Flammenlilie* (German), *Ganjeri* (Telugu), *Garbhaghatini* (Sanskrit), *Garbhoghhatono* (Oriya), *Geelboslelie* (Afrikaans), *Gikwa-kia-nduru* (Kikuyu), *Gloriosa* (English, Spanish), *Gloriosa lily*, *Gloriosa superba* (Italian), *Gloriôza vznešená* (Czech), *Glory lily*, *Gurorioosa-superuba* (Japanese), *Indai* (Marathi), *Iradi* (Tamil), *Jia lan* (Chinese), *Kaandhal* (Tamil), *Kadyanag* (Hindi), *Kalappagadda* (Telugu), *Kalappaikizhangu* (Tamil), *Kalgari* (Gujarati), *Kalihari* (Hindi, Sanskrit), *Kalikari* (Sanskrit), *Kallappai kilangu* (Tamil), *Kallappai kizhangu* (Tamil), *Kallavi* (Marathi), *Kannoru* (Tamil), *Kannovu* (Tamil), *Karadikanninagadde* (Kannada), *Karianag* (Marathi), *Kariari* (Punjabi), *Kari hari* (Hindi), *Kariari* (Punjabi), *Karihari* (Hindi), *Kathari* (Hindi), *Khadyanag* (Marathi), *Kithonni* (Malayalam), *Kitsune yuri* (Japanese), *Klångbuske* (Swedish), *Kulhari* (Hindi), *Langalika* (Sanskrit), *Languli* (Hindi), *Lis de Malabar* (French), *Lis glorieux* (French), *Malabar glory lily*, *Malabarische methonika* (German), *Meheriaphulo* (Oriya), *Mendoni* (Malayalam), *Mettoni* (Malayalam), *Méthonique du Malabar* (French), *Mozambique lily*, *Mulim* (Punjabi), *Nabhi* (Telugu), *Narciso superbo* (Italian), *Nirupippali* (Telugu), *Niyangala* (Singhalese), *Ognisikha* (Oriya), *Panjangulia* (Oriya), *Pipa de turco* (Spanish), *Potti dumpa* (Telugu), *Potti nabhi* (Telugu), *Prachtelie* (Dutch), *Prachtilie* (German), *Ruhmesblume* (German), *Ruhmeskrone* (German), *Ruhmeslilie* (German), *Senegal lily*, *Shakrapushpi* (Sanskrit), *Siva raktaballi* (Kannada), *Siva saktaballi* (Kannada), *Superba del Malabar* (Italian), *Superbe de Malabar* (French), *Superb lily*, *Tonri* (Tamil), *Turk's cap*, *Ulatchandal* (Bengali), *Vacchonag* (Gujarati), *Vaghachabaka* (Marathi), *Ventonti* (Singhalese), and *Yuri kuruma* (Japanese).

Warning – the whole plant (especially the tuberous roots) is poisonous and can cause gastrointestinal irritation, abdominal pain, numbness of the mouth, nervous excitement and death.

Climbing lily was a protected species in Cape Province (South Africa) in the 1950s and may well still be today.

Climbing lily's root has been mistaken for those of yam (*Dioscorea*).

Superba is Latin (haughty, exalted, proud) meaning 'superb, splendid, brilliant or magnificent'.

The roots are understood to offer a familiar means of suicide in India – and in Burma (Myanmar) too where they have been a last resort among lovelorn girls especially.

The flower appears to be known more often in Zimbabwe as 'flame lily'. It was an emblem for the Country under the previous Rhodesian administration and often continues in this capacity for Zimbabweans today.

Medicinally, the root has been used in India to treat wind, leprosy, piles, some parasitic skin diseases, scorpion stings and snake bites.