

Kniphofia uvaria

[Synonyms : *Aletris uvaria*, *Aloe longifolia*, *Aloe uvaria*, *Iris uvaria promont. bonae spei.*, *Kniphofia alooides*, *Kniphofia burchellii*, *Kniphofia occidentalis*, *Kniphofia uvaria* var. *glaucescens*, *Kniphofia uvaria* var. *nobilis*, *Kniphofia uvaria* var. *serotina*, *Tritoma burchellii*, *Tritoma canari*, *Tritoma glauca*, *Tritoma nobilis*, *Tritoma recurva*, *Tritoma saundersii*, *Tritoma uvaria*, *Tritomanthe uvaria*, *Tritonium uvaria*, *Veltheimia speciosa*, *Veltheimia uvaria*]

RED HOT POKER is an evergreen perennial. Native to South Africa it has orange-red maturing to yellow flowers with long stamens.

It is also known as Devil's poker, *Fackellilie* (German), *Fackellilja* (Swedish), *Faux Aloés* (French), Flame flower, *Foguetes* (Portuguese), *Kniphofia* (French), *Mnohokvět hroznatý* (Czech), Poker plant, *Raketblomst* (Danish), Torch lily, *Tritome* (French), and *Vuurpijl* (Afrikaans).

The flowers are pollinated in their native habitat by sunbirds.

This is a parent of many cultivated varieties.

Uvaria is derived from Latin *uva* (bunch of grapes) meaning 'clustered like a bunch of grapes'. Authorities have drawn attention to records which claim that the first European description of this plant appeared in a book published in 1644 in Amsterdam. It is believed likely by some however that the plant itself was first introduced to Europe in 1707.

Once it reached Europe it seems to have acquired its own folklore there. If the plant flowered in the Autumn some people believed it foretold a death in the family.