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Stapelia gigantea

[Synonyms : *Stapelia cyclista*, *Stapelia gigantea* var. *pallida*, *Stapelia marlothii*, *Stapelia meintjesii*, *Stapelia nobilis*, *Stapelia tarantuloides*, *Stapelia youngii*]

CARRION FLOWER is a cactus-like succulent perennial. Native to South Africa it has large fetid smelling (if sniffed), purple-haired, finely and transversely red-ridged, yellowish flowers.

It is also known as *Aasblom* (Afrikaans), Giant stapelia, Giant toad flower, Starfish flower, and Zulu giant.

The 'bad meat' smell attracts pollinating flies which lay their eggs on the plant so that eventually it can be found crawling with maggots.

Gigantea means 'gigantic, very or unusually large (or tall)'.

Medicinally, Zulus are believed to have used the plant to treat hysteria and ease pain.