

Dracunculus vulgaris

COMMON NAME

Stink lily (dragon arum, black arum, snake lily)

FAMILY

Araceae

AUTHORITY

Dracunculus vulgaris Schott

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Monocots

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Bulbous deciduous herb with erect palmate leaves. Large red-purple aroid inflorescence

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Bulbous deciduous herb with erect palmate leaves borne on petioles and sheaths spotted and streaked in red, green, black; lamina green with white-ish spots. Inflorescence on 0.5 m stalk (scape), to 0.5 m tall; spathe dark red-purple with frilled margins, partly enclosing the red-purple spadix that extends beyond the spathe.

SIMILAR TAXA

Amorphophallus titanum

FLOWERING

Late spring; monoecious - abundant male flowers above the many female flowers near base of spadix; flies strongly attracted by the rotting flesh smell emitted from the mature inflorescence.

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, Violet/Purple

YEAR NATURALISED

1965

ORIGIN

South-eastern Mediterranean Europe (Greece, Greek islands including Crete; Turkey)

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/dracunculus-vulgaris/>



Inflorescence spathe with flies; garden, Matai St, Whanganui. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 24/11/2015, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Inflorescence spathe with fly; garden, Matai St, Whanganui. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 24/11/2015, Licence: CC BY-NC.