

ARACEAE – ARUM FAMILY

Plant: herbs (perennials) or rarely shrubs; erect, climbing, or prostrate

Stem: sometimes sap milky, watery and may be pungent

Root: tuberous or rhizomatous

Leaves: simple or compound, basal but arising from stem and forming a sheath, alternate, sword-shaped or broader, usually large, smooth, glossy, often net veined, ± fragrant when crushed

Flowers: mostly unisexual (monoecious or dioecious), rarely perfect; sepals and petals (4-6 reduced tepals) but often absent or inconspicuous, large floral leaf or bract (spathe) surrounds spike-like stem (spadix) with many minute flowers; (2)4-6-8 stamens; ovary superior, 1 style or none, carpels 1 to many

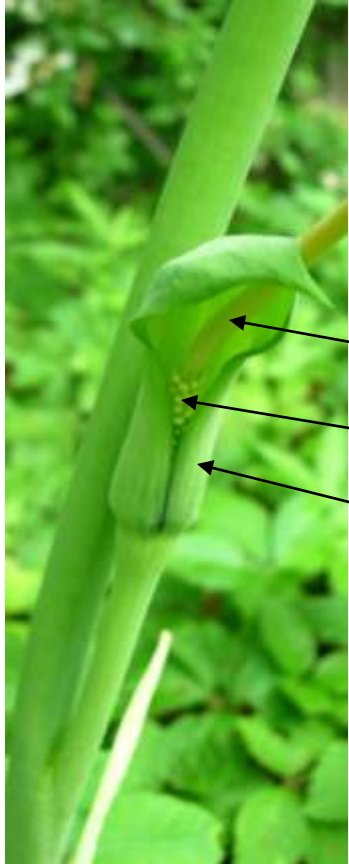
Fruit: usually a berry

Other: worldwide but more abundant in tropics; Monocotyledons Group

Genera: 110+ genera; locally *Arisaema* (Jack-in-the-pulpit), *Calla* (water arum), *Orontium*, *Peltandra* (arrow arum), *Symplocarpus* (skunk cabbage)

Flower Morphology in the Araceae (Arum) Family

Genus *Arisaema*



Green Dragon



Jack In The Pulpit

Genus *Symplocarpus*



Skunk Cabbage



Spathe – bract(s) that form below the inflorescence that often partially enclose the flower structure (spadix).

Spadix – a thickened spike of usually densely crowded and small flowers

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Green Dragon [Dragon Arum]; *Arisaema dracontium* (L.) Schott.

[Woodland] Jack In The Pulpit [Indian Turnip]; *Arisaema triphyllum* (L.) Schott.

Skunk-Cabbage; *Symplocarpus foetidus* (L.) Salisb. ex Nutt.

Green Dragon [Dragon Arum or Root]

Arisaema dracontium (L.) Schott.

Araceae (Arum Family)

Oak Openings Metropark, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: flowers (no petals or sepals) yellowish, small, on very long spadix partially wrapped by spathe; leaves distinct in 5-15 ovate-lanceolate leaflets; fruit a red berry; late spring to early summer

[V Max Brown, 2005]



[Woodland] Jack In The Pulpit [Indian Turnip]

Arisaema triphyllum (L.) Schott.

Araceae (Arum Family)

Oak Openings Metropark, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: flowers on blunt spadix partially wrapped and folded over by spathe (often green to purple streaked); 1 or 2 leaves with 3 leaflets; fruit a cluster of red berries; spring to summer (subspecies present but intergrade)

[V Max Brown, 2004]



Skunk Cabbage

Symplocarpus foetidus (L.) Salisb. ex Nutt.

Araceae (Arum Family)

Oak Openings Metropark, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: many 4-tepal flowers on spadix inside a spathe; leaves large, net veined, ovate and often cordate at base; crushed plant gives a bad odor; late winter to spring

[V Max Brown, 2004]

