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Amorphophallus titanum

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Amorphophallus titanum, the **titan arum**, is a **flowering plant** in the family **Araceae**. It has the largest unbranched **inflorescence** in the world. The inflorescence of the talipot palm, *Corypha umbraculifera*, is larger, but it is branched rather than unbranched. *A. titanum* is **endemic** to **rainforests** on the Indonesian island of **Sumatra**.

Due to its odor, like that of a rotting corpse, the titan arum is characterized as a **carion flower**, and is also known as the **corpse flower** or **corpse plant** (**Indonesian**: *bunga bangkai*—*bunga* means flower, while *bangkai* can be translated as corpse, cadaver, or carrion).

The titan arum's berries arrange in a regular cylindrical form that resembles the packing of spheres inside a cylindrical confinement. Those structures are also called **columnar structures** or **crystals**.

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Etymology [edit]

A. titanum derives its name from **Ancient Greek** ἀμόρφος *amorphos* "without form, misshapen" + νόστος *phallus* "nallus" and Τίταν *Titan* "titan niant") [2]

Amorphophallus titanum



In bloom at New York Botanical Garden
June 27, 2018

Conservation status

Extinct

EW

CR

EN

VU

NT

LC

Endangered (IUCN 3.1)^[1]

Scientific classification 

Kingdom: Plantae