

335. *SYMPLOCARPUS FOETIDUS* (L.) Nutt. (ARACEAE) — Skunk Cabbage

Used for food, after elaborate preparation, by the Amerindians. Seeds said to be narcotic.³³ Reported to be anodyne, antispasmodic, diaphoretic, emetic, emmenagogue, expectorant, narcotic, poison, sedative, sialogogue, stimulant, styptic, sudorific, skunk cabbage is a folk remedy for asthma, catarrh, cancer, chorea, convulsions, cough, dropsy, epilepsy, headache, hemorrhage, hysteria, itch, parturition, pregnancy, rheumatism, ringworm, snakebite, skin, sores, spasms, splinters, swellings, toothache, wounds, and worms.^{32,33}

Contains starch, gum-sugar, fatty oil, essential oil, tannin, iron. Leaves contain *n*-hydroxytryptamine (the leaf extract is hemolytic). The root contains crystals of calcium oxalate.

Toxicity — Narcotic² — large doses cause nausea, vomiting, headache, vertigo, and dimness of vision. Contact with the plant has been reported to cause intolerable itching and inflammation of the skin.⁶