

Guidance for the trade name *Dracaena marginata*

Dracaena marginata is a common trade name for the popular houseplant Dragon Tree. However, this name can cause confusion as it is not an accepted scientific name and has been published in scientific literature twice by different botanists. These two instances of the name (homonyms) refer to different species.

Name	<i>Dracaena marginata</i> Lam.	<i>Dracaena marginata</i> Aiton
Accepted name	<i>Dracaena reflexa</i> Lam. var. <i>angustifolia</i> Baker	<i>Aloe purpurea</i> Lam.
Common name	Dragon tree	Aloe
Distribution	Native to Western Indian Ocean islands, commonly cultivated and traded globally	Native to Mauritius, very rarely found in cultivation or international trade
CITES status	Not CITES listed	Appendix II with annotation #4
Description	Rosette of leaves on top of woody stem. Stems form already in young plants, often branched. Leaves not fleshy, no teeth on leaf margins. Leaves variable in colour, often with white, pink or red stripes along leaf margin.	Rosette plant. Large specimens form an upright, usually unbranched stem. Leaves rather fleshy succulent, small red teeth along leaf margin. Leaves grey/green in colour with red margin.

Photos of Dragon tree, *Dracaena reflexa* var. *angustifolia*



1. Close-up of leaves



2. Young plants in nursery



3. Older cultivated plant

Photos of *Aloe purpurea*



1. Habit



2. Close-up of flowers

Further information

Plants of the World Online: <https://powo.science.kew.org/>

Species+: <https://www.speciesplus.net/>

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