Pollination in the Genus Arum – a review

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**ABSTRACT** 

The 28 species of the genus Arum (Araceae) attract and temporarily trap insects (mainly

flies, and beetles in a few cases) during a complex pollination process. At anthesis, the appendix of

the inflorescence produces heat and emits a specific odour which attracts insects. The lured insects

are trapped within the floral chamber when stigmas are receptive. They will be released about 24h

later after pollen emission, ensuring pollen dissemination. Studies on the reproductive biology of the

genus have shown some degree of variability in the pollination strategies: morphological variations,

flowering and heating periods, odour types and the type of pollinating insects.

Most of Arum species have never been studied in depth but data available from the literature

indicate quite a high diversity of pollination strategy within this genus. Consequently, a general

pollination model is not valid at the level of the whole genus. The origin of this diversity certainly

results from the biogeographic history of the genus. The plants (i.e. species) have developed

adaptations in response to different climatic, ecological and biotic (i.e. entomofauna) constraints (i.e.

selective pressures) according to the various habitats occupied in the different regions of Europe and

the Middle East. However, in the absence of phylogenetic data, it is actually impossible to determine

how these different reproductive strategies have developed and evolved during the history of this

genus.

**Keywords:** insect, pollinators, inflorescence, thermogenesis, floral odour, morphology, Araceae

# **INTRODUCTION**

### **HISTORY**

Arum have been known since Antiquity (Theophrastus, Pliny and Dioscorides). The description "Arum officinarum" appeared during the Middle-Ages because of their medicinal properties, but this term designated all kinds of aroids for about four centuries (Prime,1960; Fridlender, 1999a). During this period several authors dealt with Arum (see Croat, 2000 for more details). The binomial name Arum maculatum is attributed to Tabernaemontanus around 1590, but it has been used with a taxonomic "value" only after the classification work of Linnaeus in 1753 (Boyce, 1993). Hundreds of species were given the name of Arum, most of them later to be defined as new genera of Araceae, for example Arum tenuifolium is the type specimen for the genus Biarum described in 1832 by Schott (Boyce, 1993; Mayo et al., 1997). Following Arum maculatum, the second valid species was A. italicum, described in 1768 by Miller (Table 1), and later Linnaeus f. described A. pictum in 1782. During the 19<sup>th</sup> century, period of oriental expeditions, many species were described from the East and the Mediterranean (Table 1). More recently, 7 new species have been described in the last 23 years (Boyce, 1993, 1994, 2004). Today, the genus Arum is considered to have 28 species (Boyce, 2004).

Interestingly, in parallel with the taxonomic work of species description, there was a progressive discovery of insect pollination. In their 1996 book, Proctor, Yeo & Lack describe the work of Camerarius, Bradley, Miller, Logan and others during the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, when botanists discovered that the "Farina Fecundens" produced by the stamens and the stigma were necessary to set seeds, and the first cross hand-pollinations were performed. During the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century biologists such as Dobbs and Kölreuter discovered that insects, and particularly bees, visited flowers in search of nectar and incidentally were carrying the "Farina", and thus were pollinating agents for numerous flowering plant species (Proctor et al., 1996). During this period, Lamarck (1778) discovered the heat produced by spadixs of Arum italicum. Sprengel (1793) produced the first systematic study of insect pollination on about 500 plant species and described several pollination mechanisms, in particular flowers which temporarily trap insects (e.g. Aristolochia).

Sixty years later (1857-1876), Darwin studied the plant variation and insect pollination systems (particularly self-pollination avoidance) within the frame of his theory of natural selection. At this time, Hildebrand (1867) wrote the first book on floral biology, followed by Delpino (1868) who proposed a flower classification (two volumes) based on different floral types in relation to pollination. Delpino studied numerous pollination mechanisms, including those of Arum italicum and in 1870 of A. maculatum. In the same way, Müller (1873) wrote three books on plant-pollinatorinsect relationships, describing many pollination mechanisms, including Arum maculatum. In 1883, Arcangeli described the pollinating fauna of Arum italicum and in 1886 he studied Arum pictum. Knuth (1898-1905) wrote a handbook (3 volumes) on flower pollination in which *Arum italicum*, A. maculatum, A. pictum and A. dioscoridis are cited. The understanding of the insect trap mechanism was elucidated 40 years later thanks to experimental studies of the pollination of Arum maculatum and A. nigrum (Schmucker, 1925; Knoll, 1926). These studies showed the role of the appendix, the hairs and the floral chamber in attracting and capturing the insects, and also in seed production. During the last 60 years, only the pollination of Arum maculatum has been studied, and this only in England. Nevertheless the genus Arum is the most documented among Araceae in relation to pollination (Gibernau, 2003).

### **GENUS PRESENTATION**

The genus *Arum* is composed of 28 species, largely distributed in Europe, North Africa, Middle East and Central Asia (Boyce, 1993; Mayo *et al.*, 1997). It is divided into two sub-genera: the sub-genus *Arum* which contains all the species except one, *Arum pictum*, which belongs to the sub-genus *Gymnomesium* due to the timing of its flowering (autumn instead of spring) and morphological characters of its sterile flowers and leaves.

Many *Arum* species are pollinated, or at least visited, by saprophilous or coprophilous insects, mainly flies and beetles (Boyce, 1993; Kite *et al.*, 1998; Gibernau, 2003). *Arum* inflorescences attract and trap the insects by mimicking the odour of their laying site (e.g. decaying organic matter or faeces). Thus the insects are lured by the inflorescence when pollinating and gain no reward from this interaction (Proctor *et al.*, 1996).

### **Inflorescence Morphology**

The morphology of the *Arum* inflorescence is characteristic, made up of a spathe and a spadix. The spathe is the foliar organ around the spadix. The spadix is the central axis bearing the small unisexual flowers.

The spathe is a modified bract. Its basal part forms a tube around the fertile part of the spadix, called the floral chamber, which is closed at its top by hairs derived from sterile male flowers (Barabé *et al.*, 2003). The upper part of the spathe opens at anthesis and looks like a limb above a constriction zone. After pollination, the spathe wraps around the spadix protecting the developing fruit (i.e. the infructescence).

The spadix is divided in two zones, the basal fertile zone where the flowers are located within the floral chamber and the upper sterile zone, the appendix. Within the fertile zone, fertile female flowers (i.e. ovaries) are situated at the bottom, above them are sterile female flowers looking like hairs (i.e. pistillodes), still higher are the fertile male flowers (i.e. stamens), and finally male sterile flower also looking like hairs (i.e. staminodes). The appendix is a sterile organ situated at the apex of the spadix. It can develop heat and emits the volatile compounds attracting the pollinating insects. In *Arum italicum*, the longer the appendix, the more insects it will attract (Méndez & Obeso, 1992), and the higher will be the number of fruits initiated (Méndez & Diaz, 2001). In *A. maculatum*, if the appendix is removed, few *Psychoda* are caught and only 20% of the inflorescences are visited (Lack & Diaz, 1991). The same result had been found in inflorescences of *A. hygrophilum* with no appendix (Koach, 1985). The appendix loss (i.e. by predation) diminishes the fruit and seed productions in *A. italicum* and *A. maculatum* (Lack & Diaz, 1991; Méndez & Obeso, 1992). On the other hand, the appendix is not absolutely necessary since 40% of the *A. italicum* with no appendix produce seeds (Méndez & Obeso, 1992), and in *A. maculatum*, inflorescences still produce a reduced seed set (Lamb, 1956; Lack & Diaz, 1991).

# **Cryptic & flag species**

Boyce (1993) distinguished two inflorescence types within the genus *Arum*. The species in which the inflorescence is borne on a short peduncle and in this way is situated amid or below the leaves, are called "cryptic" species. On the other hand, species where the inflorescences are above the leaf level at the end of long peduncles are called "flag" species. We will see later that these two

kinds of species have different reproductive biology. Among the most studied species, *Arum maculatum*, *A. italicum*, *A. dioscoridis*, *A. palaestinum*, and *A. idaeum* are all "cryptic" species, while *Arum rupicola*, *A. hygrophilum* and *A. creticum* are "flag" species.

# **POLLINATION CYCLE**

# Cycle steps

Arum inflorescences are protogynous: the period of stigma receptivity (female phase) starts and finishes before pollen liberation (male phase). This trait implies that inflorescences can not self-pollinate (i.e. with their own pollen). Insects are trapped within the floral chamber during the time between the two sexual phases

Each inflorescence produces four periods of heat during anthesis (Fig. 1). The first two are due to the male flowers. The first occurs on the day before the spathe opens (Albre *et al.*, 2003), the second on the day of the spathe opening (Skubatz *et al.*, 1990; Bermadinger-Stabentheiner & Stabentheiner, 1995). A temperature increase is perceptible at 9 a.m., several hours before the opening of the inflorescence in *A. italicum* (Arcangeli, 1886). These two heating events are not related to insect attraction but may rather be involved in the actual unfolding of the spathe (Fig. 1).

On the day of spathe opening, a third heating event occurs during the evening, but it is produced by the appendix (Fig. 1). This heating event is related to the phase of insect attraction and enhances the volatilisation of the odoriferous volatile compounds (Knoll, 1926; Bermadinger-Stabentheiner & Stabentheiner, 1995; Kite, 1995). Insects are mainly attracted by the scent, and visual cues of the spadix contrast against the spathe are secondary (Knoll, 1926; Lamb, 1956; Prime, 1960; Lack & Diaz, 1991; Kite *et al.*, 1998). Once attracted, the insects fall or enter into the floral chamber where they are trapped (Fig. 2). The upper hairs, which are modified sterile male flowers, located at the entrance of the floral chamber, are supposed to prevent the insects from escaping out and "huge" invertebrates from entering in, and/or to reduce light entrance (Knoll 1926; Dormer, 1960; Lack & Diaz, 1991; Fridlender, 1999b). Large dung flies have been observed to alight on the spadix of *A. maculatum* and *A. nigrum*, but not go further down (Church, 1908; Knoll, 1926; Dormer, 1960).

During their stay in the floral chamber, insects may deposit pollen on the stigma, if they already carry some. Female flowers are receptive at this time and their stigmas have a drop of secretion, enhancing pollen collection. The conditions within the floral chamber allow the insect to survive until the male phase on the next day when pollen release occurs. The chamber wall is constituted of a spongy mesophyll (i.e. loosely packed cells) coupled with numerous stomata on the external wall surface (Knoll, 1926; Beck, 1983; Bermadinger-Stabentheiner & Stabentheiner, 1995). This structure of the wall tissue may facilitate the oxygen transfer necessary for insect respiration, but also may be of value to respiration of the male flowers of the spadix during heating events, particularly when the spathe is still closed. Moreover, in particular dry conditions, the relative humidity of the floral chamber can remain high independent of the external conditions (Knoll, 1926). In Israel, the mortality of *Psychoda cinerea*, pollinator of *A. hygrophilum*, is limited thanks to the humidity of the floral chamber, thus this may be of adaptive value in arid habitats (Koach, 1985).

During the second day of anthesis, the fourth heat event is produced by the stamens (Fig. 1) and may be related to the anther opening and pollen release (Bermadinger-Stabentheiner & Stabentheiner, 1995; Albre *et al.*, 2003). At this stage, the cells of the appendix, the epidermis of the floral chamber and the spadix are no longer turgid and slippery, and the hairs have wilted. Insects are able to walk up the floral chamber and to escape loaded with pollen (Knoll, 1926; Prime, 1960; Beck, 1983; Bermadinger-Stabentheiner & Stabentheiner, 1995). If these insects are captured again by a female stage inflorescence, they may deposit pollen on the receptive stigma, but the insect capture must occur in the two days following their escape, as *Arum* pollen quickly loses its viability (Gibernau *et al.*, 2003). In *A. maculatum*, about 25% of the *Psychoda* captured are attracted for the first time and thus carry no pollen (Lack & Diaz, 1991). Moreover, a *Psychoda* can only visit one inflorescence on a given day because of the trap mechanism. Thus, an inflorescence must attract a maximum of insects in order to have a high probability of pollination and thus set seed, and consequently will have a "good" pollen dissemination on the following day. On the other hand, the fruiting success of *A. maculatum* did not appear to be related to the number of insects trapped, as if just one midge carrying pollen was necessary for a full fruit set (Lack & Diaz, 1991).

### The pollinators

Pollinators are documented for 15 species in their natural habitats, about half the genus, plus three species in culture out of their distribution (Table 2). *Arum* species are mainly pollinated and

visited by flies: *Nematocera* (Psychodidae, Ceratopogonidae, Chironomidae) and also *Brachycera* (Sphaeroceridae, Drosophilidae, Scatophagidae). Visiting insects can also be beetles (Staphylinidae, Bruchideae, Scarabaeideae) for a few species (Table 2).

Except for four species, namely A. maculatum, A. italicum, A. nigrum and A. hygrophilum, data on pollination are actually observations or samples of insects captured in the floral chamber, which are not necessarily efficient pollinators (Gibernau, 2003). For example Arum maculatum inflorescences captured many insect species, 56 recorded in Germany and at least 13 in England but the main pollinator is only Psychoda phalaenoides (Grensted, 1947; Beck, 1983; Diaz & Kite, 2002). In the same way in A. italicum, at least 9 insect species are captured but only two are efficient pollinators and two others may be opportunist secondary pollinators (Albre et al., 2003). In Crete, at least 21 species of insects visited inflorescences of A. creticum, but only the bruchid beetles (5 species) seemed to be active enough and coated with enough pollen to be pollinators (Drummond & Hammond, 1993). The larger scarabs were coated with much more pollen, but remained quiescent at the bottom of the spathes (Drummond & Hammond, 1993). In A. nigrum, 50 species of insect are attracted by the inflorescences but only 4-5 species may be efficient pollinators (Knoll, 1926).

# **Thermogenesis**

This question has been reviewed by Bay (1995): in summary the thermogenic process is triggered by the alternation of light and dark, which stimulates the primordia of the male flowers. As a result, the male flowers produce salicylic acid, which act as a calorigen hormone by stimulating thermogenic reactions. In *Arum*, there are two spadix zones (the male flowers and the appendix) which produce heat at different moments of anthesis. In summary (see the previous section "cycle step"), the thermogenic pattern in *Arum* is tetraphasic (Fig. 1). Two heating events occur before the spathe unfolding, by the male flowers, another on the first day of anthesis by the appendix, and the last on the second day of anthesis, again by the male flowers.

If temperature increases have been observed in many *Arum* species, in fact few actual temperature measurements are available. The heat production by the appendix appears to be the most spectular of the four heating events. In *A. italicum* and *A. maculatum*, the appendix becomes as much as 15-25°C warmer than the surrounding air (Lamarck, 1783; Kraus, 1882; Arcangeli, 1886; Church 1908; Prime, 1960; Skubatz *et al.*, 1990; Bermadinger-Stabentheiner &

Stabentheiner, 1995; Albre *et al.*, 2003). During anthesis, and particularly during the heat production by male flowers, the floral chamber of *A. italicum* and *A. maculatum* is about 1-3°C warmer than the external air (Church, 1908; Sowter, 1949; Prime, 1960; Bermadinger-Stabentheiner & Stabentheiner, 1995; Albre *et al.*, 2003).

Apart from *A. italicum* and *A. maculatum*, incomplete data are available for a few species. In *Arum rupicola*, the spadix maintained a temperature of around 40°C, about 15-20°C above ambient air from 17h to 23h and then began to fall (Koach, 1985; Drummond & Hammond, 1993). In *A. jacquemontii*, the spadix temperature was 36.4°C at 18h 40 compared to an ambient of 15.2°C and gave no discernible odour (Drummond & Hammond, 1993). *Arum palaestinum* and *A. creticum* are weakly thermogenic with just a few degrees above ambient (Koach, 1985; Skubatz *et al.*, 1990). By contrast, male flowers and the appendix of *A. dioscoridis* are highly thermogenic, 9-10°C above ambient, some spadix part reaching 40°C (Koach, 1985; Skubatz *et al.*, 1990).

The hypothesis of pollinator attraction by the heat production has been tested in *Arum nigrum*. Heated artificial inflorescences did not capture significant number of pollinating insects, whereas artificial inflorescences with a smell were attractive (Knoll, 1926; Dormer, 1960). A second experiment on *Psychoda phalaenoides*, the main pollinator of *Arum maculatum*, was performed more recently. Glass tubes 10°C warmer than ambient air simulated warm inflorescences, but no insects were attracted (Kite *et al.*, 1998).

Thus, the main role of the thermogenic process (at least for the appendix) appears to be the dispersion in the air of the scented compounds, rather than to attract the insects because of the warmth. In addition, the thermogenic activities of the male flowers are not linked with pollinator attraction, but may be related to spathe unfolding, physiological processes such as pollen maturation, insect warming or pollen release (Barabé *et al.*, 2002; Albre *et al.*, 2003).

### VARIATIONS IN THE REPRODUCTION BIOLOGY

According to the species of *Arum*, differences in the pollination mechanism are of greater or lesser importance. Those differences are related to the inflorescence morphology, the thermogenesis, the inflorescence odour, the type of pollinators but these variations may also occur within a species. The geographical variation in *A. maculatum* is a well known, for example, in the presence of spots,

the plant size, dextral/sinestral spathes or the yellow appendices, even if there is not always a "logical" pattern (Prime, 1960).

# **Modes of capture**

Differences exist in the capture method between *Arum maculatum* and *A. nigrum* (Knoll, 1926; Dormer, 1960; Boyce, 1993). Both species attract several different insects including *Psychoda*, but these insects do not behave similarly. In *A. maculatum*, insects fly in a spiral around the appendix and the spadix and then land on the spadix or the staminodes (hair modified male sterile flowers), before they walk down into the floral chamber. In *A. nigrum*, on the other hand, pollinators try to land on the spathe which is slippery due to oily secretions, and fall down into the floral chamber.

Insects are hypothesized to remain captured in the floral chamber of *A. nigrum* for three reasons (Knoll, 1926):

- ? The upper part of the floral chamber and the spadix epidermis are slippery preventing insects from walking upwards the exit.
- ? The insects do not try to fly because the volume of the floral chamber is not sufficiently large to stimulate flying behaviour.
- ? The main light source coming from below and the insects being positively light sensitive, they might remain near the lower part of the floral chamber (where the female flowers are located). In fact, this is because the floral chamber wall is bicoloured: dark purple in its upper part (opaque) and pale green (translucent) in its lower part. This floral chamber wall characteristic is also observed in *A. orientale*, *A. rupicola*, *A. purpureospathum* and *A. elongatum*, but not in *A. maculatum*, *A. italicum*, *A. concinnatum* or *A. cylindraceum*.

Arum creticum and A. idaeum, two closely related species native to Crete, are the only species with no hairs blocking the entrance of the floral chamber (Boyce, 1993). Interestingly, A. idaeum and A. creticum have similar, if not the same, pollinators; and are the only Arum species to be pollinated principally by beetles (Drummond & Hammond, 1993; Drummond & Boorman, 2003). This lack of "closing hairs" may be related to the pollinators. Beetles are relatively strong insects, able to sneak in through small openings thanks to their smooth body and such hairs would be, in fact, inefficient in holding them. Interestingly, A. diosocoridis, in Lebanon, is mainly visited by

7 species of beetles and two species of flies (*Scatophaga*). All the beetles were able to move easily up and down from the floral chamber, only the *Scatophaga* flies seemed to be held inside the floral chamber by the hairs (modified sterile flowers) (Kullenberg, 1953).

It has been suggested that in general the pollinating insects collect the stigma secretion and from this get some kind of food (Prime, 1960). But Lack & Diaz (1991) stated that such behaviour was never observed in *Psychoda phalaenoides*, pollinator of *Arum maculatum*. These authors suggest that the stigmatic secretions were not nectar (i.e. produced to feed the insects) but a fluid favourable for the adherence and the germination of the pollen. Moreover, such secretion is produced on the second day of anthesis even if female flowers are no longer receptive and, by getting onto the trapped insects, may enhance pollen adhesion to their bodies (Lack & Diaz, 1991). However, in A. italicum, the stigmas are devoid of such secretion during the second day of anthesis (Albre et al., 2003). In any case, it has been suggested that Psychoda species are not known to feed during their short adult life (Withers cited in Lack & Diaz, 1991), which is up to 7 days for P. phalaenoides (Prime 1960; Withers, 1988), and about 5 days for P. cinerea, P. trinodulosa and P. parthenogenetica (Lachmann et al., 2000). It is worth noting that adult P. trinodulosa died when deprived of sugary water whereas P. cinerea and P. parthenogenetica survived but had a lesser reproductive success (Lachmann et al., 2000). In Arum hygrophilum, the stigmatic fluid helps the pollinators (Psychoda cinerea) to survive longer when in the floral chamber (Koach, 1985). This fluid may help in maintaining a humidity rate appropriate for the insects and also represent a food source. Psychoda cinerea fed with an aqueous solution (5% sucrose) which is similar in composition to the stigmatic fluid, survive twice as long as those fed with only water (Koach, 1985). In comparison, the fluid produced by stigmas from A. maculatum, had a concentration of sucrose equivalent of 9.12.5%, which was slightly more concentrated than 8% sucrose equivalent of the fluid exuded from the phloem of cut stems (Lack & Diaz, 1991). Finally, during the rearing of *Psychoda* captured in inflorescences of *Arum italicum*, the individuals were regularly observed to feed on 5% sugary water (Albre, pers. com.).

### Reproduction

The reproductive system has been intensively studied in only two species, namely A. maculatum and A. italicum. The reproductive success depends on the flowering and pollination

contexts: number of individuals, their density, the weather, the phenology, the pollinator abundance (Ollerton & Diaz, 1999; Méndez & Diaz, 2001). Inflorescences which opened on days with no other inflorescences already open (i.e. potential pollen donors) have a probability up to 45% lower to fructify than inflorescences which opened on days with inflorescences already open (Méndez & Diaz, 2001). In the same way, it appears that *A. maculatum* flowering at the beginning or the end of the flowering period, when few other inflorescences are open, have a lower probability to fructify than those flowering at the flowering peak (Ollerton & Diaz, 1999). Consequently, selection tends to synchronize flowering in *A. maculatum*, but the "mean" date fluctuates every year due to variable weather conditions (Ollerton & Diaz, 1999). In a year with "good" weather conditions, flowering of *A. maculatum* is generally synchronised with *Psychoda* flight abundance and a high fruit set occurs; whereas with "bad" weather the flowering may be delayed, the *Psychoda* flight activity reduced and few fruits are produced (Kite *et al.*, 1998). Hence, the reproductive success of *A. maculatum* and *A. italicum* appears to be pollen and pollinator limited.

The flowering phenology is unimodal (i.e. a peak) in *A. italicum* and in *A. maculatum*, with inflorescences lasting a few days (i.e. anthesis of about 24h) and withering quickly after anthesis (Méndez & Obeso, 1992; Ollerton & Diaz, 1999; Méndez & Diaz, 2001). Two exceptions are known for which inflorescences do not fade and wither rapidly, but retain their fresh appearance for several days after the spathe fully opened: about 7 days in *A. creticum* (Drummond & Hammond, 1993) and 9-10 days in *A. hygrophilum* (Koach, 1985). Once again, a long inflorescence duration in *A. creticum* may be related to beetle pollination.

In A. italicum, it has been shown that the sexual reproduction has a somatic cost, as tubers of reproductive plants grow 30% less than non-reproductive plants. This cost can be lower by temporal coincidence between leaves and inflorescences/infructescences (Méndez, 1999). Arum italicum with tubers lighter than 2.5 g do not reproduce, whereas those with a tuber over 10g will reproduce each year (Méndez & Obeso, 1993). In A. maculatum, a size factor also exists since the tuber will not flower until they reach a weight of approximately 10 g (Prime, 1960). When its vigour increases (i.e. the mass), a plant tends to produce more inflorescences which are bigger and bear more flowers (Méndez & Obeso, 1993; Méndez, 1998). An individual of A. italicum with several inflorescences has a higher probability to fructify than plants with only one inflorescence (Méndez &

Obeso, 1992; Méndez & Diaz, 2001). In the same way, the inflorescence size (i.e. mass) is positively related to the size of the appendix and the numbers of flowers (Méndez, 1998; Méndez, 2001). On the other hand, the rank of development of the inflorescence (e.g. order of inflorescence apparition) appears to be important, since inflorescences with a higher rank (e.g. second or third inflorescences) tend to be smaller and to bear less flowers (Méndez, 1998).

In *A. italicum*, it seems that two functional reproductive strategies occur (Méndez, 1998). In fact, the reproductive outcome of individuals producing only one inflorescence is, on one hand abortion with no seed set but pollen dispersion, and on the other hand seed production but with a low pollen dispersion. The result is like a gender specialisation of the inflorescence as functionally male or female. On the contrary, plants producing two inflorescences do not tend to be male/female specialised, but are relatively as successful in pollen dispersion (i.e. male) as in seed production (i.e. female) (Méndez, 1998).

Another important reproductive character is self-compatibility. Self-pollination is rare in *Arum*, inflorescences bagged before their opening abort in *A. italicum* (Albre *et al.*, 2001), *A. maculatum* (Lamb, 1956; Prime, 1960; Lack & Diaz, 1991), *A. nigrum* (Knoll, 1926; Dormer, 1960) and *A. hygrophilum* (Koach, 1985). In contrast Fridlender (1999b) report that in *A. cylindraceum*, individuals from small populations were self-fertile whereas individuals from big populations were unable to self-pollinate. According to Ollerton & Diaz (1999), *Arum maculatum* is self-compatible, but because of the delay between the female and male phases (i.e. protogyny), self-pollination is extremely rare in natural conditions. Thus cross-pollination by insects is necessary in order to set seeds. But self-compatibility allows geitonogamous pollination, that is pollination between inflorescences of a same individual or clone, to be successful in *A. maculatum* and *A. italicum* (Diaz & Gibernau, unpub. data), even though the contrary was previously reported (Lack & Diaz, 1991).

### **Pollinators**

The type of the main pollinator/visitor varies according to the species (Table 2). There are five main types of pollination agents: Psychodids (5 *Arum* species), Sphaerocerids (2 *Arum* species plus 5 in association with Staphylinids), Drosophilids (2 *Arum* species), Ceratopogonids (2 *Arum* species) and Bruchids/Melyrids (2 *Arum* species). The three first types of pollination systems mimic

the laying sites of their pollinators, respectively decaying matter, dung and rotting fruit. In the fourth pollination system (Ceratopogonids), the inflorescences imitate the insect host/prey. Due to the lack of data, it is unclear if the last pollination system mimics a reproductive or an alimentary site.

Recently, a study showed that *Arum maculatum* is frequently visited by females of *Smittia pratorum*, a terrestrial chironomid whose larvae develop in wet soil (Diaz & Kite, 2002). Nevertheless, this species is not a major pollinator because they carry very few pollen grains, probably because of their less pubescent bodies. They may be attracted not by the faeces/urine odour but by the stigma exudates on which they feed (Diaz & Kite, 2002). In Germany, 56 insects species were trapped in floral chambers of *A. maculatum* of which 94% were psychodid midges (Beck, 1983; Rohacek *et al.*, 1990). The main pollinators are females of *Psychoda phalaenoides* (93.5%) and of *P. grisescens* (5.3%). It's worth noting that even if *P. grisescens* globally represents a small portion of the total midges trapped, in some populations this species constitute up to half of the psychodids (Beck, 1983). Such variation has also been observed in England (Proctor *et al.*, 1996).

Pollinator variations can also occur among years. In *A. maculatum*, a population normally pollinated by *Psychoda phalaenoides*, flowered three weeks later during a year with bad weather conditions and was visited by *Piophila vulgaris* but had a low fruit set (Kite *et al.*, 1998).

In England, A. maculatum and A. italicum subsp neglectum both attracted mainly female Psychoda phalaenoides and Smittia pratorum; whereas A. italicum subsp italicum attracted mainly P. phalaenoides and P. grisescens (Diaz & Kite, 2002). On the other hand, A. italicum (subsp italicum) is pollinated by different species, namely P. crassipenis and P. pusilla, in Toulouse (Albre et al., 2001). Interestingly, P. crassipenis, a rare species in England, has been recorded as a pollinator of British A. italicum (Withers, 1988). Consequently geographic variations of the pollinators of a same species might be frequent. Some other examples of such variations are detailed in the next section (see in the next paragraph "intraspecific variation").

In Israel, *Arum hygrophilum* is also pollinated by a *Psychoda* species, namely *P. cinerea*, but only the males are attracted (Koach, 1985). In this case, the inflorescence may not mimic the laying site of the pollinator as in *A. maculatum* or *A. italicum*. Interestingly, females of *P. cinerea* were caught by inflorescences of *A. italicum* cultivated in a botanical garden (Koach, 1985). In

Lebanon, *Arum hygrophilum* is pollinated by another Psychodid, *Sciria advena* (Kullenberg, 1953).

Arum rupicola (misidentified as A. elongatum; [Boyce, 1993]) attracts Culicoides (Ceratopogonidae), an avian hematophagous parasite in Israel (Braverman & Koach 1982). This species cultivated in Austria or England also attracts other Culicoides or Simulium species, which are rather mammalophilic (Knoll, 1926; Drummond & Boorman, 2003). The inflorescence may mimic the fly host by its smell and heat and trap them once attracted. Culicoides was also trapped in rare occasions in A. maculatum (Beck, 1983)

These different kinds of interactions underline different mechanisms and adaptations of *Arum* species in order to achieve their sexual reproduction by trapping local insects.

# **Thermogenesis**

While almost all the species studied are known to produce some heat, this character varies among species. The main heating event can occur during the first evening or night after the spathe has opened as in: *A. italicum*, *A. maculatum*, *A. rupicola*, *A. jacquemontii*. On the other hand, *A. dioscoridis*, *A. creticum* and *A. palaestinum* produce heat during the early morning until midday (Koach, 1985; Skubatz *et al.*, 1990; Drummond & Hammond, 1993; Bermadinger-Stabentheiner & Stabentheiner, 1995; Albre *et al.*, 2003). Finally, no rise in temperature was found in *A. hygrophilum* (Koach, 1985). Another variable parameter is the intensity of heat production. The difference of temperature between the spadix and ambient can be high (15-20°C) as in *A. italicum*, *A. maculatum*, *A. rupicola*, *A. jacquemontii*, medium (9-10°C) in *A. dioscoridis*, low (3°C) in *A. palaestinum* and *A. creticum*, or null as in *A. hygrophilum* (Koach, 1985; Skubatz *et al.*, 1990; Drummond & Hammond, 1993; Bermadinger-Stabentheiner & Stabentheiner, 1995; Albre *et al.*, 2003).

#### **Odours**

This paragraph is mainly based on the data presented in a major work done on 11 *Arum* species (Kite *et al.*, 1998).

Odours of *Arum* species have been recorded (Table 1) and with a few exceptions are congruent among observers (Koach, 1985; Drummond & Hammond 1991, 1993; Boyce, 1993; Kite *et al.*, 1998; Drummond & Boorman, 2003; Boyce, 2004). According to Boyce (1993),

"cryptic" species, except *Arum idaeum* produce odours, whereas "flag" species, except *A. creticum* are scentless, at least for a human nose.

The odours of many *Arum* species have been studied (Kite, 1995; Kite *et al.* 1998; Diaz & Kite, 2002), in which about 36 compounds have been found (see Table 3). The volatile compounds emitted by the appendix are variable among the species, but in general their foul odour smells like faeces or decaying matter. Common compounds are butanoïc acid esters, 1-decene, terpenes (citronellene and its derivatives), *p*-cresol, methyl salicylate, indole, 2-heptanone (Table 3). Some species appear clearly different like *A. creticum* or *A. palaestinum*, whose rotten fruit odour is due to benzyl alcohol and ethyl acetate. *Arum rupicola* var. *rupicola* is also different because of a mixture of various sesquiterpenes even if *p*-cresol is abundant (Table 3).

Based on the composition of *Arum* odours published by Kite *et al.* (1998), a phylogenetic tree, that may be called a chemogram, has been produced (Fig. 4). On this "tree", *Arum* odours are grouped by chemical similarity. The integrity of one group, the 5 species with a dung odour plus *A. italicum*, is very well supported. Interestingly, *A. maculatum* and *A. italicum* which are close species with similar faecal/urine odour are not in the same group, indicating certainly an odour convergence (Kite *et al.*, 1998). *Arum maculatum* has a different odour from the "dung group" by the absence of 1-decene, β-citronellene and its derivatives: dimethyl-octadiene and trimethyl-heptadiene (Table 3, Fig. 4). Thus the faeces/urine odour of these two species have different biosynthetic origins, the one of *A. italicum* been chemically derived from a dung odour. But despite these odoriferous differences, both species are mainly pollinated by the same insect *Psychoda phalaenoides* in England (Diaz & Kite, 2002). Set apart from all others are the two species with no apparent odour (but which do emit volatile compounds!) and the two species with sweet odours similar to rotten fruit or *Freesia*. But the chemical relationships among these groups are not fully resolved.

Odours are also produced in the floral chamber, which are emitted by the fertile part of the spadix and not the chamber wall (Kite, 1995). Contrary to the odour emitted by the appendix, the floral chamber is highly homogeneous as 95% of the blend are bicyclogermacrenes for all the species studied. The exception is *A. creticum*, the only *Arum* species principally pollinated by beetles which emits a-farnesene (Kite *et al.*, 1998).

Pollinator attraction in *Arum* is mainly olfactory, thus odour change often implies a different visiting/pollinating insects.

# Cryptic species

Three compounds in particular are responsible for the faeces/urine odour in *Arum* maculatum: indole, p-cresol and 2-heptanone (Kite, 1995). But p-cresol is a major volatile compound of cow dung, which may explain why A. maculatum is pollinated 95% by females of Psychoda phalaenoides, since this midge lays its eggs in cow dung. Thus the midges searching by smell for a laying site may be attracted by p-cresol emitted by the appendix, and trapped by deceit. A field experiment showed that Psychoda species were attracted to traps containing p-cresol, 2-heptanone, indole, or any combination (Kite et al., 1998). The most attractive odours were p-cresol alone or the mixture of the three compounds. Since p-cresol is present in most odours studied (Table 3), this molecule is suspected to be a general attractant for coprophilous insects (Kite et al., 1998).

The odour of *A. dioscoridis* var. *dioscoridis* seems to confirm the attractive properties of 2-heptanone and *p*-cresol, since this species emitting these two compounds, attracts coprophilous staphylinid beetles and sphaerocerid flies (Drummond & Hammond, 1991). Apparently females were more numerous than males but differences were not significant as they were in the insects trapped by *A. maculatum*.

Arum palaestinum is an atypical "cryptic" species, since its appendix emits mainly ethyl acetate, producing a smell of rotten fruit. Consequently, the insects attracted are not coprophilous insects but rather different species of *Drosophila* (Koach, 1985; Kite *et al.*, 1998).

Finally, A. idaeum emits p-cresol and two derivatives (p-methyl anisole and 2-nitro-p-cresol) but in low quantities. This species is supposed to be scentless, but this suggests that it was never observed during the period of volatile production, or that the odour is not perceptible for the human nose. A sweet odour akin to violet and hyacinth has also been reported for this species by Drummond (in Kite  $et\ al.$ , 1998).

# "Flag" species

These species are supposed to be non-smelling, except *Arum creticum*, whose odour recalls *Freesia* (Iridaceae) (Boyce, 1993). Nevertheless, these species do emit volatile compounds that can be detected by insects. Also, the appendix of *Arum rupicola* var. *rupicola* produces

numerous sesquiterpenes, traces of *p*-cresol, various alcohols, esters and ketones (Kite *et al.*, 1998). These different compounds constitute a blend which attracts biting midges (Ceratopogonidae) of the genus *Culicoides* which are vertebrate parasites (Braverman & Koach, 1982; Koach, 1986; Drummond & Boorman, 2003).

# Intraspecific variations

The odour in some species may vary among populations, particularly in species with large or fragmented geographical distribution, and the types of pollinators attracted may also vary. *Arum maculatum* is described as having a foul and urinous scent in England, whereas on continental Europe, it smells like a mixture of mouse, lemon and rotting plant material (Prime, 1960).

Arum palaestinum has two different ecotypes, the first type emits the odour of rotting fruit and attracts *Drosophila*; whereas the second type produces a smell of carrion which attracts necrophilous scarabs and flies (Koach 1985, 1986; Drummond & Hammond, 1993). In the same way, A. orientale, in Cyprus, is known to have a fruit-scented form attracting Drosophila, whereas a faecal-scented form attracts Atheta staphylinids (Drummond & Hammond, 1991). Arum dioscoridis has been collected frequently and represents the best documentation on geographical pollinator variation. In Turkey, this species traps coprophilous beetles (Staphylinidae: Anotylus and Atheta) whereas in Cyprus it is mainly coprophilous flies (Sphaerocerid: Coproica) with some Anotylus and Atheta (Drummond & Hammond, 1991). In Lebanon, A. dioscoridis is pollinated by other coprophilous beetles (Staphylinidae, Scarabaeideae) and scatophagid flies (Kullenberg, 1953), but none of the Lebanese species are the same as those from Turkey or Cyprus (Drummond & Hammond, 1991). In Israel the visitors are coprophilous flies (Sphaeroceridae, Sepsidae) and beetles (Staphylinidae, Scarabaeideae) (Koach, 1985; Papp & Rohacek, 1987). The odour variation has not been studied between these locations, but distinct odour profiles apparently exist between A. dioscoridis var. dioscoridis and A. dioscoridis var. philistaeum (Kite et al., 1998). These different ecotypes may be an adaptation to a differential availability of pollinators among the localities.

Differences in volatile compounds have been found between the odour of the two English sub-species of *Arum italicum* (Diaz & Kite, 2002). In particular; 2,6-dimethyl-2,6-octadiene and one derivative are present in the odour of *A. italicum* subsp. *neglectum* and absent in *A. italicum* 

subsp. *italicum*. Moreover, *p*-cresol is more abundant in this latter sub-species. This odour difference may be related to the fact that *A. italicum* subsp. *italicum* attracts *P. phalaenoides* and *P. grisescens* whereas it is *P. phalaenoides* and *Smittia pratorum* in *A. italicum* subsp. *neglectum* (Diaz & Kite, 2002). Finally, an atypical French population of *A. maculatum* with yellow appendices may attract not only *Psychoda* but also domestic flies (Fridlender, 1999b). *Arum maculatum* populations where the percentage of yellow spadixs is high (up to 50%) have been reported also in England but no data related to pollination exist (Prime, 1960).

### **CONCLUSION**

Even if the inflorescence morphology is basically very similar among the different species of *Arum* (i.e. a spadix surrounded by a spathe which forms a floral chamber at its base), pollination systems appear to be diverse. Pollinator types attracted are in fact very different: beetles (Bruchidae, Scarabaeideae, Staphylinidae), flies (Drosophilidae, Sphaeroceridae, Psychodidae). So are the floral odours produced (sweet, faeces, urine, foetid, carrion, or none perceptible). Actually, the complete thermogenic pattern is known for only a few species, studying this character on new species may reveal variations of thermogenesis through the genus. Consequently, a general pollination model is clearly not valid for the whole genus, particularly since *A. creticum* shows several peculiarities. These differences are probably related to the biogeographical history of the genus. The species have, during their evolution, colonised various habitats in the different regions of Europe and Middle East in which they had experienced different climatic, ecological and fauna constraints and may have developed particular adaptations. However, in the absence of phylogenetic data, it is actually impossible to determine how these different reproductive strategies have developed and evolved during the history of this genus.

It is important to bear in mind that this review is based on data available on just a few species, with numerous species still to be studied. Such studies would allow testing different hypotheses on the evolution of plant-pollinators, for which the genus *Arum* appears to be a good system.

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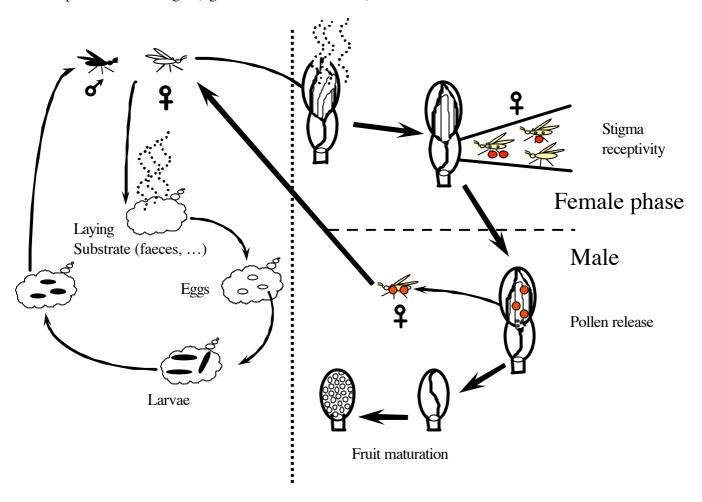
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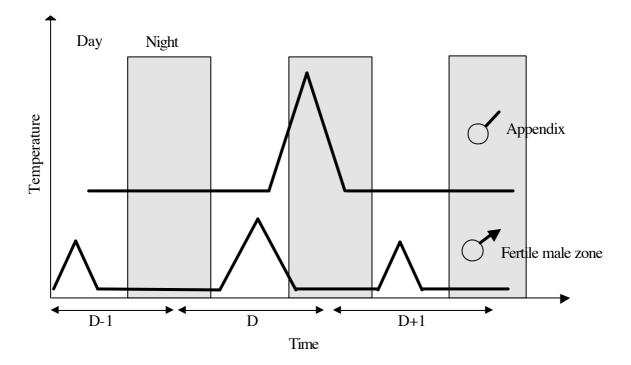
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**Fig 2.** Biological cycle of *Psychoda* midges (left side of the vertical line), pollination of *Arum* cycle with capture of lured midges (right side of the vertical line).



**Fig. 1.** Thermogenic pattern on *Arum maculatum* and *A. italicum* with four periods of heat. Two heating events occur before the spathe unfolding by the male flowers (D-1 & D), another on the first day of anthesis by the appendix (D evening), and the last on the second day of anthesis, again by the male flowers (D+1).



**Fig. 3.** Consensus strict tree ("chemogram") based on the relative abundances of the volatile compounds that composed the odour of various *Arum* species (data from Kite *et al.*, 1998; Table 3).

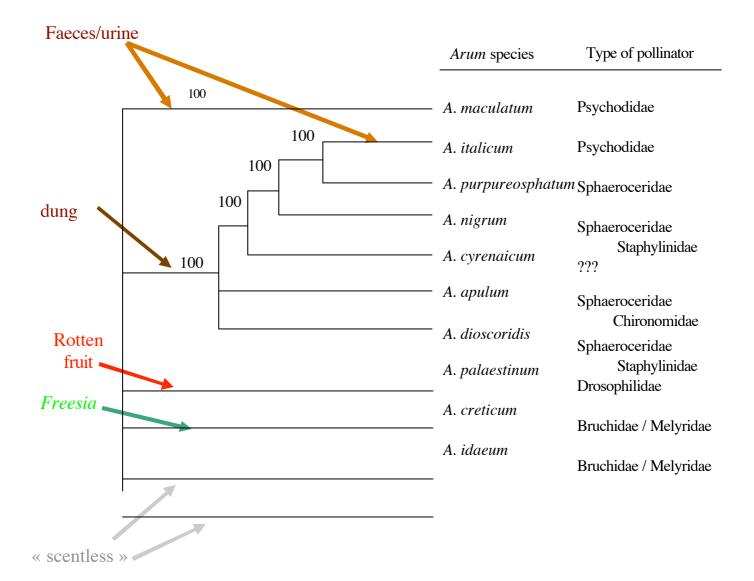


Table 1. History of species descriptions for the genus Arum (Boyce, 1993, 2004).

Date	Species	Author	Odour				
1753 A. maculatum		Linnaeus	Faecal / urine				
1768	A. italicum	Miller	Urine / faecal				
1782	A. pictum	Linnaeus fil.	Dung / pungent				
1808	A. orientale*	Bieberstein	Dung / urine				
			Rotting/fermenting fruit				
1816	A. dioscoridis*	Smith	Dung / carrion <sup>1</sup> Ammonia ?				
1836	A. byzantinum	Blume	Urine / putrid <sup>%</sup>				
1836	A. jacquemontii	Blume	No perceptible				
1844	A. cylindraceum	Gasparr	Putrid <sup>2 3</sup>				
1845	A. longispathum	Reichenbach	Dung				
1853	A. rupicola	Boissier	No perceptible				
1853	A. hygrophilum	Boissier	No perceptible (sweet <sup>%</sup> )				
1853	A. palaestinum*	Boissier	Rotting/fermenting fruit				
			Dung / carrion				
1853	A. creticum(*)	Boissier & Heldreich	Sweet - rotting ("Freesia"				
			Naphthalene mothballs				
1856	A. gratum	Schott	Sweet ("pear drops")				
1857	A. nigrum	Schott	Dung				
1857	A. elongatum	Steven	Dung				
1858	A. besserianum	Schott	Fermenting fruit <sup>%</sup>				
1859	A. concinnatum	Schott	Putrid / urine				
1877	A. korolkowii	Regel	No perceptible				
1912	A. cyrenaicum	Hruby	Dung				
1917	A. idaeum	Cousturier & Gandoger	No perceptible / sweet <sup>%</sup>				
1981	A. hainesii	Agnew & Hadac	???				
1983	A. euxinum	Mill	No perceptible				
1983	A. balansanum	Mill	"Acidic apple"				
1984	A. apulum	Bedalov	Dung				
1987	A. purpureospathum	Boyce	Dung				
1994	A. sintenisii	Boyce	Rotting/fermenting fruit				
2004	A. alpinariae	Boyce	Dung <sup>%</sup>				

<sup>\*</sup> several chemotypes exist each with different odours (Koach, 1985; Feibrun-Dothan, 1986; Boyce 1993; Drummond & Hammond, 1991, 1993).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>%</sup> light odour perceptible close to the inflorescence.

<sup>1</sup> var. *syriacum*: odour no perceptible (Boyce, 1993).

<sup>2</sup> as synonym of A. lucanum: odour of dung / plasticine (Drummond & Boorman, 2003).

<sup>3</sup> as synonym of A. alpinum: odour no perceptible (Boyce, 1993).

**Table 2:** Major insect taxa found in inflorescences of different species of *Arum* (in bold most abundant taxa). Unless noted, the insects are mainly females. (=) indicates that caught insects are about half males and half females.\* plants in culture out of their natural distribution area.

Species	Country	Main Pollinators					
A. maculatum	England	Psychoda phalaenoides, P. grisescens, P. brevicorn					
		Smittia pratorum (Piophila vulgaris)					
A. maculatum	Germany	Psychoda phalaenoides, P. grisescens					
A. italicum neglectum	England	Psychoda phalaenoides, Smittia pratorum					
A. italicum italicum	England	Psychoda phalaenoides, P. grisescens					
A. italicum italicum	Italy	Psychoda nervosa, Limosina pygmaea, Ceratopogo					
	-	pictellum, Chironomus byssinus, Drosophila funebris					
A. italicum italicum	France	Psychoda crassipenis, P. pusilla					
A. italicum*	Israel*	Psychoda cinerea					
A. pictum	Italy	Sphaerocera equinus, Aphodius melanostictus					
A. orientale (named petteri)	Yugoslavia	Coproica ferruginata, Spelobia clunipes					
A. orientale	Cyprus	Atheta trinotata, Atheta sp (?), Drosophila subobscura (=					
		D. busckii (=), D. hydei (=)					
A. dioscoridis	Turkey	Anotylus clypeonitens, A. inustus, Atheta atramentaria					
A. dioscoridis	Cyprus	Coproica vagans, C. ferruginata, Anotylus inustus					
A. dioscoridis	Lebanon	Scatophaga stercoraria, S. maculipes, Philor					
		intermedius, Oxytelus sculpturatus, Onthophagus ovatus,					
A. dioscoridis	Israel	Sphaeroceridae, Staphylinidae, Scarabaeideae					
A. dioscoridis*	England*	Dung insects					
A. concinnatum	Crete	Coproica ferruginata, Spelobia sp., Anotylus inustus, Athet coriaria					
A. concinnatum*	England*	Psychoda phalaenoides, Smittia sp.					
A. nigrum	Croatia	Aphodius tristis, Sphaerocera subsultans, S. pusilla, L					
		equinus Coprophila pusilla					
A. creticum	Crete	Bruchidius spp., Tropinota hirta, Aplocnemus spp.					
		Heteroptera, Melyridae					
A. idaeum	Crete	Bruchidae, Melyridae, Mordellidae					
		Heteroptera					
A. rupicola (named elongatum)	Israel	Culicoides circumscriptus, C. cataneii					
A. rupicola	Austria*	Culicoides aricola, Odagmia ornata					
(named conophalloides)*							
A. rupicola*	England*	Culicoides brunnicans, C. vexans, C. punctatus, C. pulicari					
A. hygrophilum	Israel	Psychoda cinerea (?), Tinearia alternata (?)					
A.hygrophilum	Lebanon	Sciria advena					
A. jacquemontii*	England*	Culicoides brunnicans, C. obsoletus, Simulium ornatum					
A. palaestinum <sup>1</sup>	Israel	Drosophila phalerata(=), D. immigrans (=), D. hydei (=), L melanogaster (=), D. simulans (=)					
A. palaestinum <sup>2</sup>	Israel	Flies & beetles					
A. purpureospathum*	England*	Copromyza equina, Smittia sp., C. similes, P. phalaenoides					
A. gratum	Turkey	Psychodidae					
A. apulum	Italy	Sphaeroceridae, Chironomidae					
A. apulum*	England*	Psychodidae, Chironomidae, Sphaeroceridae					
A. cylindraceum*	England*	Psychodidae, Culicidae					
(named lucanum)							

Gibernau et al. 2004 Aroideana 27 : 148-166.

A. cyrenaicum\*England\*NematoceraA. euxinumTurkeyPsychodidae, Sphaeroceridae

1 ecotype with fermeting fruit odour 2 ecotype with dung/carrion scent

**Table 3.** Relative abundances of volatile compounds\* present in the odours emitted by the appendix or the floral chamber in 11 species of *Arum* (data from Kite *et al.*, 1998).

<b>Chemical Class</b> Compound names (or type)	A. maculatum	A. italicum ssp. Italicum	A. apulum	A. cyrenaicum	A. nigrum	A. purpureospathum	A. dioscoridis	A. palaestinum	A. creticum	A. idaeum	A. rupicola var. rupicola
APPENDIX											
Fatty acid Derivatives											
1-decene		+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++				
ß-citronellene		+++	++	+++	+++	+++	++				
(dimethyl-octadiene)		++	+++	+++	+++	+++	++				
(trimethyl-heptadiene)	+								++		
Ethyl acetate								+++			
Methyl butyrate	+	+++		++	++	++					+
Methyl isobutyrate		++		++	++	++					
2-methyl methyl butyrate	+	++		+					++		
2-heptanone	+++	+	+	++	++	+	++				
3-methyl butan-2-one	+	++									
3-methyl pentan-2-one 6-methyl heptan-2-one	++										++
2-nonanone	++										
Ethanol	+	+++	+	++	++	++	++	++	++		
Propanol						++			++		
Acetic acid								++			
Benzenics											
Benzeyl alcohol									+++		
Benzaldehyde									++		
Methyl benzoate									++		
Methyl salicylate	+		+	+					++		
p-cresol	++	+	+++	+++	++	++	+++			+++	+++
<i>p</i> -methyl anisole										++	
Nitrogen compounds											
Indole	+++		++	+	++				++		
Skatole				+	++				+		
2-nitro- <i>p</i> -cresol										++	
Phenylpropanoids											
Eugenol									++		
Terpenoids											
a-pinene	++										
Myrcene	++										
Limonene	++	++									
Sabinene	++										
ß-pinene	++										
Terpinolene	++										
Geraniol	TT								++		
Geraniol Geranial									+		
Citronellol	+								++		
(unidentified sesquiterpene)	+++	++	++	+++	++	++	++		1 T		
Sesquiterpenes (various)	+++	++	++	+	++	++	++		+		+++
FLORAL CHAMBER	CT-T	ı T	LT,	i.	ıT	ıT	1 T		•		i TT
Terpenoids											
Bicyclogermacrene	++++	++++	?	44.44	4444	++++	<b>+</b> +++	++++		?	?
a-farnesene	(T <b>TT</b>	1 TTT	?	·· + + +	1 + + +	1777	1 + + + +	1 777	++++		?
a-rarnesene	10-90%		: 1-10		+:<				TTTT	•	•