

# ARUM FAMILY ALBUM



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## ARACEAE

### The Titan and The Tiniest in Our Midst

This family is characterized by its “spathe and spadix”—a floral form represented by our familiar springtime flower, the jack-in-the-pulpit. The spathe is a leafy bract, which surrounds an inflorescence (a structure composed of many tiny flowers)—the spike-like spadix. The peace lily is a common spathe-and-spadix inflorescence.

The most notorious member of this family is the titan arum (*Amorphophallus titanum*), otherwise known as the corpse flower due to its overpowering foul odor when in full bloom. Reaching heights greater than six feet, the titan arum is the largest known unbranched inflorescence. In contrast, recent studies in DNA analysis reveal that the family also includes the smallest of the flowering plants (*Wolffia*) and duckweed, a common aquatic pest. Indeed, a single plant of *Wolffia* would scarcely be visible to the naked eye.



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