

## *Aristolochia* spp

### **Common name:**

Dutchman's Pipe, Birthwort,  
Calico Flower,

### **Palatability to Livestock:**

Moderate.

### **Toxicity to Goats:**

Low risk.

### **Toxicity to Other Species:**

Low risk.

### **Poisonous Principle:**

. Aristolochic acid, norastolochia acid, and magnoflorin.

### **Effects:**

#### *Signs and Symptoms:*

- . In humans; vomiting, gastroenteritis, cramps, lowering of blood pressure.
- . Coma and death by respiratory paralysis.
- . Traditionally used to induce labour.

#### *Health and Production Problems:*

- . Be aware of potential health problems.

#### *Treatment:*

- . See Dr or Vet.

### **Integrated Control Strategy:**

- . Declared "Noxious" in parts of Queensland.

### **Comments:**

- . Garden plant, escapee.
- . Prefers rich moist soil.
- . The whole plant is toxic.
- . A climbing plant with slender stems, becoming woody with age, tends to smother other plant.,
- . Leaves are alternate, round or heart-shaped, mid-green, fleshy and smooth, on long stalks.

- . Pendulous, single flowers grow on long stems from the leaf axils, with a pale yellow "S" shaped tube, blowing out to a round, purple-spotted flare, flowering in summer.
- . Seed is a 6 winged cylinder and opens to form a parachute like structure, containing flat, brown, heart-shaped seeds.
- . Found in waste areas, with rich moist soil, with some protection.
- . Native of Brazil.



Picture: *Aristolochia* spp  
Helen Simmonds. Calga. NSW.

### **Further Reading:**

- . Shepherd. *Pretty but Poisonous*. 2004.
- . Steginga. *Poisonous Plants in the Home, Garden and the Bush*. 2003.