



## Lizard's tail

(*Saururus cernuus*)

**Originated in the eastern section of North America. May become troublesome in its natural range. Introduced in Europe as an ornamental plant and has become naturalised in some cases.**

### Description

- Perennial, herbaceous plant, ranging from 30 to 120 centimetres in height, with a highly characteristic zig-zagging stalk
- The rhizome can reach up to 5 metres in length
- Single, oblong, alternating leaves, heart-shaped at their base, from 10 to 12 cm long and 4 to 5 cm wide
- Spike inflorescence, in clusters, between 15 and 20 cm long
- Hermaphroditic flowers, 5 mm wide, with 6 free-standing stamens, 4 stigmates and 4 carpels almost free-standing two by two, on a whitish, petal-like sepal
- Flowers and leaves produce a pepper scent
- Fruit consists of 4 follicles, almost indehiscent, generally with a single seed

### Ecology and reproduction

- Prefers marshes, river banks, the bottom of shallow streams, swampy, wet forests
- Vegetative characteristics, fragile and soft in streams. Erect stalks and strong branches on river banks
- Flowers during the summer (June to September). The species is self-incompatible, but produces numerous seeds through cross-pollination
- Vegetative multiplication by producing sprouts along its rhizomes and through the development of adventitious roots on submergent stalks

### Documentation

- Delaunay, G. 2005. Contribution à l'étude de la flore du Maine-et-Loire. Un exemple de gestion d'une xénophyte à caractère envahissant : cas de la Lézardelle penchée (*Saururus cernuus* L. Sauracées). Symbioses. 13: 29-31.
- Manual of the Alien Plants of Belgium. 2017. *Saururus cernuus*. [On line]. Document available at: <http://alienplantsbelgium.be/content/saururus-cernuus>
- GT IBMA. 2017. *Saururus cernuus*. Base d'information sur les invasions biologiques en milieux aquatiques. Groupe de travail national Invasions biologiques en milieux aquatiques. UICN France et Agence française pour la biodiversité. [On line]. Document available at: <http://www.gt-ibma.eu/espece/saururus-cernuus/>

#### Classification

Order	Piperales
Family	Saururaceae
Genus	<i>Saururus</i>
Species	<i>S. cernuus</i> (Linné, 1753)

