

37012 Dragon's Blood, pressed, pure

Resinous product obtained from the fruits of various plants belonging to the palm family and, in particular, from the species *Calamus draco*, present in the islands of the Sunda and Moluccas archipelago. Brown red in color, in classical times it was called *cinnabaris indicus* (to underline, as confirmed by Pliny, its origin from India), subsequently leading to an erroneous identification with cinnabar. The current denomination originates instead from a legend, according to which the substance would have been generated by the blood gouged during the fight between an elephant and a dragon. Cennino Cennini (end of XIV century) remembers it as being used essentially in miniatures, discouraging its use in other traditional techniques ("it is not in a condition to do you much honor"). In fact, as a vegetable organic substance, it is an easily alterable color. Given its rarity, it has been falsified since ancient times, as reported by Pliny himself (I century AD). Further news are reported in the writings of Heraclius (X-XIII cent.) and Jehan le Begue (1431 c.).