



**Linnaeus' Legacy: 300 years of naming nature**  
**Plant List**

<i>Adiantum pedatum</i> L. – Maidenhair Fern	Native of woods and wet rocks in North America. <i>Adiantum</i> from the Greek, a plant in Hippocrates with unwettable leaves, probably <i>A. capillus-veneris</i> L., which grows in springs; <i>pedatum</i> because the leaves are spread like a birds' foot.
<i>Agave americana</i> L. – Century Plant	Native of tropical America. <i>Agave</i> from the Greek <i>agavos</i> , admirable; <i>americana</i> , from America. Most plants called <i>americana</i> are from the southern States, whereas those from the north-eastern States are called <i>canadensis</i> .
<i>Allium schoenoprasum</i> L. – Chives	Native of grassy and rocky places throughout Europe. From <i>alium</i> , the common Latin name for garlic; <i>schoenoprasum</i> from the Greek, <i>schoenus</i> a rush-like plant, and <i>prason</i> a leek.
<i>Aloe vera</i> (L.) Burm. fil. – Bitter Aloes	Native of Arabia and north-east Africa. <i>Aloe</i> was both Greek and Latin, derived from the Arabic, <i>Alloeh</i> ; <i>vera</i> from the Latin for true, as it was the true medicinal plant. Linnaeus did not know the flowers of this species, which are seldom produced in potted plants, and put it as a variety of <i>Aloe perfoliata</i> L.
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i> L. – Kidney Vetch	Native of western and southern Europe and western Asia. Linnaeus took the name <i>Anthyllis</i> from Pliny, who in turn took it from Dioscorides. Tournefort had called the genus <i>Vulneraria</i> , from the Latin <i>vulnus</i> , a wound, as it was used by the ancient Greeks and Romans to treat open wounds.
<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i> L. – Canadian Columbine	Native of dry woods in eastern North America. <i>Aquilegia</i> perhaps derived from an old form of the German Akelei, or, some say, from Latin <i>aquila</i> , an eagle, because of the talon-like spurs.
<i>Arbutus unedo</i> L. – Strawberry Tree	Native of rocky hillsides in Co. Kerry, Ireland, and the Mediterranean area. <i>Arbutus</i> was the Classical Latin name for the strawberry tree, mentioned by Virgil, Horace and Ovid; <i>unedo</i> , Latin for 'I eat one', for the fruits which look delicious but are tasteless! This was another old name for the arbutus fruit.
<i>Arenaria montana</i> L. – Mountain Sandwort	Native of the mountains of southern Europe. <i>Arenaria</i> , because it is a plant which grows in sandy areas, from Latin <i>arena</i> ; hence the modern arena, because the stage of the Roman theatre was strewn with sand; <i>montana</i> , because it grows in the mountains.
<i>Aristolochia clematitis</i> L. – Birthwort	Native of most of Europe, especially the south-east. <i>Aristolochia</i> , a plant in Theophrastus, from the Greek, <i>aristos</i> , best and <i>lochos</i> , birth, because of its use in childbirth; <i>clematitis</i> because of its tall, climbing branches, a name used by Dioscorides in <i>de Materia Medica</i> , for a climbing species.
<i>Asarum europaeum</i> L. – Asarabacca	Native of woods in Europe and western Asia. <i>Asarum</i> a plant mentioned by Dioscorides in <i>de Materia Medica</i> , of uncertain derivation, possibly from the Greek, <i>saron</i> , a broom, combined with the <i>a</i> meaning not; <i>europaeum</i> for Europe.



<i>Astrantia major</i> L. – Masterwort	Native of the mountains of Europe. <i>Astrantia</i> was a name coined by the Dutch botanist Clusius, perhaps from the Greek <i>astron</i> , a constellation and <i>antios</i> , opposite, because of the starry flowers (this was Linnaeus' own theory). Another theory is that it was derived from the German <i>Meisterwürz</i> , translated <i>Magistrantia</i> ; <i>major</i> , Latin for larger, compares it with <i>Astrantia minor</i> L. which has smaller flower heads.
<i>Betula nigra</i> L. – River Birch	Native of eastern North America. <i>Betula</i> was the name of a tree used by Pliny the Elder; <i>nigra</i> , meaning black, because of its dark bark. The common name alludes to its usual habitat, by rivers.
<i>Brassica oleracea</i> L. – Cabbage	Native of sea cliffs in Europe and western Asia, including the chalk cliffs of Dover. Linnaeus accepted Tournefort's name <i>Brassica</i> , the Latin for cabbage or broccoli, derived from the Greek meaning to boil. The Romans also called broccoli <i>colis</i> , because of its fleshy stem; <i>oleracea</i> , refers its use in the <i>olerarium</i> , or kitchen garden.
<i>Briza maxima</i> L. – Great Quaking Grass	Native of the Mediterranean region. <i>Briza</i> is ancient and modern Greek for rye; <i>maxima</i> because it is the largest of the three species, <i>maxima</i> , <i>media</i> and <i>minor</i> .
<i>Briza media</i> L. – Quaking-Grass	Native of meadows and downland in Europe. <i>Briza</i> is ancient and modern Greek for rye; <i>media</i> because it is the middle-sized species, between <i>B. minor</i> and <i>B. maxima</i> .
<i>Campanula pulla</i> L.	Native of rocks in the Alps. <i>Campanula</i> from the Latin <i>campanus</i> , meaning bell, for its bell-shaped flowers; <i>pulla</i> from the Latin <i>pullus</i> , meaning dark.
<i>Carex remota</i> L. – Remote Sedge	Native of ancient woods in Europe. <i>Carex</i> was a sedge-like plant; <i>remota</i> because the spikelets are remote from one another.
<i>Chamaerops humilis</i> L. – Dwarf Fan Palm	Native of the Mediterranean region. <i>Chamaerops</i> is derived from the Greek <i>chamae</i> , meaning on the ground, and <i>rops</i> , a copse, a name that Linnaeus borrowed from G. Pontadera (1688–1757) Professor of Botany at Padua; <i>humilis</i> is the usual Latin for low-growing vegetation and later came to mean humble.
<i>Chrysanthemum leucanthemum</i> L. – Ox-Eye Daisy	Native of meadows throughout Europe. Linnaeus based <i>Chrysanthemum</i> , Greek for golden flower, on the cornfield weed, <i>Chrysanthemum segetum</i> ; <i>Chrysanthemum</i> was used by Dioscorides for the Mediterranean <i>C. coronarium</i> . This species was called <i>leucanthemum</i> , because of its white flowers, from the Greek <i>leucos</i> , white. Modern authors use <i>Leucanthemum</i> as a generic name.
<i>Claytonia sibirica</i> L. – Pink Purslane	Native from western North America to eastern Siberia, but naturalised in Europe. <i>Claytonia</i> is named after John Clayton (1694-1773), who collected plants in Virginia and sent them to the Dutch botanist, Gronovius, a friend of Linnaeus. Though called <i>sibirica</i> , this plant is also common from California north to Alaska.
<i>Convolvulus cneorum</i> L.	Native of the central Mediterranean coasts. <i>Convolvulus</i> from the Latin <i>convolvere</i> , to twist or roll round, a name first used by Pliny; <i>cneorum</i> was taken from an obscure Greek name for a stinging plant, possibly a nettle.



<i>Cortusa matthioli</i> L.	Native of the mountains of Europe. <i>Cortusa</i> after Jacobi Antonii Cortusi (1513-1593), director of the Botanic Garden at Padua; <i>matthioli</i> after Pierandrea Mattioli (1500-1577), Italian botanist and author of an important herbal.
<i>Daucus carota</i> L. – Carrot	Native of Europe and western Asia. <i>Daucus</i> , in Latin was a parsnip or carrot, but derived from the Greek, <i>daucon</i> , which was another plant; <i>carota</i> was the Greek for carrots. To confuse still further, the usual Latin name for carrot was <i>pastinaca</i> , now botanical Latin for parsnip. Coloured carrots, as are cultivated today, originated in Afghanistan and India.
<i>Dentaria bulbifera</i> L. – Coral Root	Native of damp woods from England to Russia and Iran. <i>Dentaria</i> , from Latin <i>dens</i> , for tooth, because of the white root; <i>bulbifera</i> , from the bulbils in the leaf axils. Linnaeus followed Tournefort in distinguishing between the fleshy-rooted <i>Dentaria</i> and the fibrous-rooted <i>Cardamine</i> .
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i> L. – Foxglove	Native of western Europe. From the Latin, <i>digitalis</i> , belonging to the finger, a name first used in Leonard Fuchs' <i>de Historia Stirpium</i> (1542) from the German name <i>Fingerhut</i> , a thimble; <i>purpurea</i> from the Latin for purple, for the colour of its flowers.
<i>Dodecatheon meadia</i> L. – Shooting Star	Native of damp cliffs and meadows in Eastern North America. <i>Dodecatheon</i> , from the twelve Olympic gods, was named by Theophrastus, and later Pliny, but for a different plant; <i>meadia</i> is named after Dr Richard Mead of Stepney, physician to George III, patron of collector Mark Catesby and artist G. D. Ehret, and correspondent of Linnaeus.
<i>Doronicum pardalianches</i> L. – Greater Leopard's Bane	Native of woods in Europe. <i>Doronicum</i> was a name used by the botanist Tournefort, perhaps from the Arabic; <i>pardalianches</i> refers to its use for poisoning leopards.
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i> L. – Beech Tree	Native of Europe, mainly in the mountains. <i>Fagus</i> was the classical Latin name for the beech tree, derived from the Greek <i>phegos</i> , actually an oak with edible acorns, derived from <i>phagein</i> , to eat; <i>sylvatica</i> means growing in the woods.
<i>Ficus carica</i> L. – Fig	Native of the Mediterranean region. <i>Ficus</i> is classical Latin for both the tree and the fruit; <i>carica</i> because it grew well in Caria, a region of western Turkey, still famous for its dried figs.
<i>Fritillaria camschatcensis</i> L., Ker Gawl	Native of northern Japan, Kamchatka to Alaska. <i>Fritillaria</i> , a name used first by Tournefort, is said to be derived from Latin <i>fritillus</i> , a small dice box, because of the box-like flower, and the spotted petals. Linnaeus named this species <i>Lilium camschatcense</i> L.
<i>Gentiana acaulis</i> L.	Native of the Alps and the Pyrenees. <i>Gentiana</i> is the name of a plant in Pliny's <i>Naturalis Historia</i> , from Gentius, King of Illyria; <i>acaulis</i> , without stem, Latin <i>caulis</i> .
<i>Geranium macrorrhizum</i> L.	Native of limestone rocks in southern Europe. Linnaeus followed Pliny the Elder, who took <i>Geranium</i> from the Greek for a crane; <i>macrorrhizum</i> , from the Greek, meaning great root, describes its thick rhizome.



<i>Geranium maculatum</i> L. – Wild Cranesbill	Native of wet woods in eastern North America. Linnaeus followed Pliny who took <i>Geranium</i> from the Greek for a crane; <i>maculatum</i> , spotted, though the leaves of this species are usually unmarked.
<i>Geranium phaeum</i> L. – Dusky Cranesbill	Native of woods in Europe. Linnaeus followed Pliny who took <i>Geranium</i> from the Greek for crane; <i>phaeum</i> is derived from the Greek meaning dark coloured.
<i>Geranium sanguineum</i> L. – Bloody Cranesbill	Native of limestone hills and rocks in northern Europe. Linnaeus followed Pliny who took <i>Geranium</i> from the Greek for a crane; <i>sanguineus</i> is the Latin for blood.
<i>Geum rivale</i> L. – Water Avens	Native of wet meadows in North America and Asia. <i>Geum</i> was the Latin name of a plant in Pliny; <i>rivale</i> refers to its habitat, from <i>riva</i> , a stream.
<i>Heuchera americana</i> L.	Native of woods in eastern North America. <i>Heuchera</i> was named by Linnaeus after Johann Heinrich Heucher (1677-1747), professor of medicine at Wittenberg; <i>americana</i> means from America.
<i>Iberis gibraltarica</i> L.	Native of limestone cliffs in Gibraltar and southern Spain. <i>Iberis</i> , from the Greek, the name of a plant in Dioscorides, <i>de Materia Medica</i> . This plant is still conspicuous on the Rock of Gibraltar.
<i>Iris foetidissima</i> L. – Roast Beef Plant	Native of woods in Europe, including southern England. The name <i>Iris</i> was derived from the Greek for a rainbow; this species is <i>foetidissima</i> , from the Latin <i>foetidus</i> , strong-smelling, because of its pungent leaves.
<i>Iris sibirica</i> L. – Siberian Iris	Native of Europe to Turkey and western Siberia. <i>Iris</i> from Greek and Latin, a rainbow. Although this iris is found in Europe from Switzerland and Italy eastwards, Linnaeus knew it as a native of Siberia.
<i>Lavandula stoechas</i> L. – French Lavender	Native of southern Europe. <i>Lavandula</i> was named in the Middle Ages, perhaps because it was a disinfectant, from the Latin <i>lavare</i> , to wash; <i>stoechas</i> was recorded by Dioscorides from, and named after, the Stoechades, now called the Iles d’Hyeres, off the coast of Mediterranean France.
<i>Lilium candidum</i> L. – Madonna Lily	Native of Greece and Turkey. <i>Lilium</i> is the Latin for lily, and <i>candidum</i> is dazzling white, as opposed to <i>album</i> , a dull white. This is one of the earliest ornamentals, illustrated on a wall painting at Knossos and called <i>Lilium candidum</i> by Virgil.
<i>Linaria alpine</i> L. – Alpine Toadflax	Native of the mountains of Europe. <i>Linaria</i> is derived from <i>Linum</i> , flax, from the flax-like leaves of <i>Linaria vulgaris</i> , coined by Mattheus Sylvaticus (d. 1342) and early physician and herbalist.
<i>Linnaea borealis</i> L. – Twinflower	Native of pine woods in northern Europe and North America. Linnaeus had this plant named after himself ‘with mock modesty’ ‘...lowly, insignificant, disregarded, flowering but for a brief space – from Linnaeus who resembles it’; <i>borealis</i> , northern, from Greek <i>Boreas</i> , the north wind.
<i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i> L. – Ragged Robin	Native of wet meadows from Ireland to Siberia. The name <i>Lychnis</i> was used by Theophrastus for a furry plant whose leaves were used for wicks; <i>flos-cuculi</i> refers to <i>cuculus</i> , the cuckoo.



<i>Myrrhis odorata</i> L. – Sweet Cicely	Native of Europe from the Pyrenees to Greece. <i>Myrrhis</i> was a plant in both Theophrastus and Dioscorides; myrrh is the resin of several shrubs ( <i>Commiphora</i> species) from Arabia and north-east Africa, called <i>myrrha</i> in Latin; <i>odorata</i> , is the usual Latin for sweet-scented. Sweet Cicely was a popular herb in the Middle Ages, for its sweet, mildly aniseed flavour and was used for strewing on the floors of churches.
<i>Narcissus poeticus</i> L. – Pheasant's Eye	Native of mountain meadows ranging from the Massif Central of south-central France to Greece. <i>Narcissus</i> was the Greek name for the species of <i>Narcissus</i> , from the Greek <i>narci</i> , stiffness, because of its supposed narcotic properties. The lovely youth Narcissus, son of Liriope, a forest nymph, gazed at his own face reflected in a pool, until he fell in and was drowned; <i>poeticus</i> because this was the true narcissus of the poets.
<i>Olea europaea</i> L. – Olive	Native of Arabia and western Asia. <i>Olea</i> is classical Latin for olive, derived from the Greek <i>elaia</i> ; <i>europaea</i> because it is cultivated in Europe. Olives were one of the first trees to be cultivated, since at least 3600 BC in the Jordan valley.
<i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i> L. – Cinnamon Fern	Native of wet woods in eastern North America. <i>Osmunda</i> was the name used by Tournefort, of uncertain origin, possibly connected with the god Thor; <i>cinnamomea</i> because of the red-brown fertile fronds.
<i>Osmunda regalis</i> L. – Royal Fern	Native of boggy banks and wet woods in Europe, America and Africa. <i>Osmunda</i> was used by the botanist Tournefort, a name of uncertain origin, possibly connected with the god Thor; <i>regalis</i> is Latin for royal.
<i>Papaver cambricum</i> L. – Welsh Poppy	Native of western Spain, France and England, Wales and Ireland. <i>Papaver</i> is the classical Latin for poppy, especially the opium poppy; <i>cambricum</i> , from Wales. Later this species was renamed <i>Meconopsis cambrica</i> , from the Greek <i>mecon</i> , a poppy, and <i>opsis</i> , similar to.
<i>Phlox divaricata</i> L. – Blue Phlox	Native of woods in eastern North America. <i>Phlox</i> , from the Greek, a plant in Theophrastus' <i>Enquiry into Plants</i> ; <i>divaricata</i> , spreading, because of its widely branching inflorescence.
<i>Phlox subulata</i> L. – Moss Pink	Native of rocky hills in eastern North America. <i>Phlox</i> from the Greek, a plant in Theophrastus' <i>Enquiry into Plants</i> ; <i>subulata</i> from Latin <i>subula</i> , an awl, for its sharply pointed leaves.
<i>Pisum sativum</i> L. – Pea	Native of the eastern Mediterranean. <i>Pisum</i> was the Latin for pea, derived from the Greek; <i>sativum</i> means cultivated, from Latin <i>sata</i> , crops, as opposed to <i>sylvestris</i> , wild.
<i>Podophyllum peltatum</i> L. – May Apple	Native of woods from in eastern North America. Named <i>Podophyllum</i> because of its foot-shaped leaf, from the Greek <i>podos</i> , foot and <i>phyllos</i> , leaf; <i>peltatum</i> because the leaves are fixed by their middle, like a small shield, from Latin <i>pelta</i> .



<i>Polygonatum multiflorum</i> L. – Solomon’s Seal	Native of woods in Europe. <i>Polygonatum</i> was a herb mentioned by Dioscorides, derived from the Greek <i>poly</i> , many, and <i>gonatos</i> , from <i>gonu</i> a knee; <i>multiflorum</i> because of the numerous flowers.
<i>Polygonum bistorta</i> L. – Bistort	Native of damp, grassy places in northern Europe. <i>Polygonum</i> , a plant in Dioscorides, derived from the Greek <i>poly</i> meaning many and <i>gonum</i> , meaning seed; <i>bistorta</i> , from the Latin, meaning twice twisted, referring to the root.
<i>Potentilla anserina</i> L. – Silverweed	Native of most of Europe. <i>Potentilla</i> was named because of its supposed powerful medicinal properties; <i>anserina</i> , from Latin <i>anser</i> , a goose, because this plant grew on the edge of village ponds. A Swedish name for this plant is <i>Gåsört</i> , gooseweed .
<i>Pulmonaria officinalis</i> L. – Lungwort	Native of woods in western Europe. <i>Pulmonaria</i> is derived from the Latin <i>pulmones</i> , lungs; <i>officinalis</i> indicates that the plant is useful, from the Latin <i>officina</i> , a druggist’s store. This was thought to be good for lung disease because the leaves had white patches, resembling a diseased lung.
<i>Ranunculus aconitifolius</i> L.	Native of meadows in the mountains of Europe. <i>Ranunculus</i> was a name used by Pliny, the diminutive of <i>rana</i> , a frog; <i>aconitifolius</i> indicates that the leaves are like <i>Aconitum</i> , the monkshood.
<i>Rosa gallica</i> L. – Apothecaries’ Rose	Native of southern Europe and Turkey. <i>Rosa</i> was both Greek and Latin for the rose; <i>gallica</i> is Latin for French. This rose was grown by the Romans, and is shown in the wall-painting in the House of the Vetii in Pompeii, but in medieval times was associated with the town of Provins in France. Robert Mattock® Roses
<i>Rosa pimpinellifolia</i> L. – Scotch or Burnet Rose	Native of Europe east to Siberia. <i>Rosa</i> was both Greek and Latin for the rose; <i>pimpinella</i> is an umbellifer with a similar leaf to this rose. Linnaeus also called this species <i>Rosa spinosissima</i> , which has caused some confusion! Robert Mattock® Roses
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i> L. – Rosemary	Native of the Mediterranean coast. The name <i>Rosmarinus</i> , used by Horace, is derived from <i>ros</i> , dew and <i>marinus</i> , of the sea, for its native habitat, the rocky coasts of the Mediterranean. <i>Officinalis</i> denotes a medicinal plant, from the Latin <i>officina</i> , a druggist’s shop or store.
<i>Ruta graveolens</i> L. – Rue	Native of the Mediterranean region. <i>Ruta</i> was the classical Latin name for rue, derived from the Greek; <i>graveolens</i> , from <i>grave</i> strong or rank, and <i>olens</i> , smelling. In ancient times it was considered an antidote against poison, especially when steeped in wine.
<i>Sanguinaria canadensis</i> L. – Bloodroot	Native of woods in eastern North America. <i>Sanguinaria</i> from the Latin <i>sanguinarius</i> , to do with blood, because of the blood-red sap in the rhizome, a name coined by Johann Dillenius, Sherardian Professor of Botany at Oxford; <i>canadensis</i> indicates that it originates in north-eastern North America.



<i>Saponaria ocymoides</i> L.	Native of southern Europe, on sunny rocks. <i>Saponaria</i> is derived from the Latin <i>sapo</i> , soap, because soapwort, <i>S. officinalis</i> contains saponin; <i>ocymoides</i> means that it looks like basil, <i>Ocimum basilicum</i> .
<i>Sarracenia flava</i> L. – Yellow Pitcher Plant	Native of bogs in south-eastern North America. Named after Michael Sarrazin, a physician from Quebec, who first sent these carnivorous plants to Europe; <i>flava</i> from the Latin for yellow, for its yellow flowers.
<i>Sarracenia purpurea</i> L. – Pitcher Plant	Native of bogs in eastern North America. Named after Michael Sarrazin, a physician from Quebec, who first sent these carnivorous plants to Europe. Linnaeus adopted the name given by Tournefort; <i>purpurea</i> because of the reddish-purple flowers and leaves.
<i>Scilla peruviana</i> L.	Native of the western Mediterranean and North Africa. Linnaeus followed earlier botanists who mistakenly thought that this <i>Scilla</i> was a native of Peru, brought to Spain with potatoes, dahlias and other South American garden plants. Or he may have named it for the ship <i>Peru</i> thought to have brought the plant to Europe.
<i>Sempervivum tectorum</i> L. – Houseleek	Native of southern Europe. <i>Sempervivum</i> , from the Latin <i>semper</i> , always and <i>vivus</i> , alive, because of its survival during drought; <i>tectorum</i> , of the roofs, because it is often planted on stone roofs to keep away the lightning. This clone was given to Linnaeus by Catherine the Great.
<i>Tiarella cordifolia</i> L. – Coolwort	Native of woods in eastern North America. <i>Tiarella</i> , a small crown, from the Greek <i>tiara</i> , an upright Persian crown, because of the mitre-like capsule; <i>cordifolia</i> from its heart shaped leaves, from Latin <i>cor</i> .
<i>Tillandsia usneoides</i> (L.) L. – Spanish Moss	Native of woods in eastern North and South America. Linnaeus jokingly named <i>Tillandsia</i> after a fellow botanist, Elias Tillandz, who walked between Finland and Sweden to avoid sea-sickness. Species of <i>Tillandsia</i> are epiphytes – air plants. They appear to need no water. This species is called <i>usneoides</i> , because it is like <i>Usnea</i> , a long hanging lichen.
<i>Trillium erectum</i> L. – Wake-Robin	Native of woods in eastern North America. <i>Trillium</i> from its three leaf-like bracts and three petals; <i>erectum</i> seems a misnomer, as the flowers are held sideways, but Linnaeus compared it with <i>T. cernuum</i> , whose flower nods below the bracts.
<i>Trollius europaeus</i> L. – Globeflower	Native of cool, wet meadows in Europe. <i>Trollius</i> was Latinised by the early botanist Conrad Gesner (d. 1565), from the German <i>Tröllblume</i> , gnome-flower; <i>europaeus</i> because it grows in Europe.
<i>Uvularia perfoliata</i> L. – Wild Oat	Native of woods in eastern North America. <i>Uvularia</i> from the Latin <i>uvula</i> , the palate, because of the hanging flowers; <i>perfoliata</i> because the stem grows through the leaf.
<i>Viola canadensis</i> L.	Native of mountain woods in eastern North America. <i>Viola</i> was the Latin name of various scented flowers, including violets, wallflowers and stocks; <i>canadensis</i> from eastern North America.



*Wollemia nobilis* W.G. Jones, K.D. Hill & J.M. Allen -  
Wollemi Pine

Native of wooded gorges in Australia.

This ancient tree, a relative of the monkey puzzle, was first discovered in 1994 in a remote gorge in the Wollemi National Park, north of Sydney. Named in 1995 it is called *Wollemia* after its habitat, and *nobilis* after its discoverer, David Noble, an officer with the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service.