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*Afzelia*

*Leguminosae*

[*Fabaceae/Caesalpinaceae*]

*Afzelia* commemorates a Swedish botanist, Adam Afzelius (1750-1837), who taught and demonstrated at Uppsala University and became acting professor of materia medica and dietetics there in 1812. He joined two expeditions to Sierra Leone lasting from 1792 to 1796 when he developed extensive natural history and ethnographical collections (which today are distributed over several European museums). In 1802 he was President of the Linnaean Institute's predecessor, the Zoophytolithic Society. Apart from botanical works, Afzelius wrote a biography of his mentor, Carolus Linnaeus. Members of this family absorb nitrogen from the air. Through the bacterial nodules on their deep growing roots they will introduce nitrogen to the soil (and aerate it) to the benefit of neighbouring plants and any following them in the same soil.