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*Alpinia*

*Zingiberaceae*

*Alpinia* commemorates the Italian botanist and physicist, Prospero Alpini (1553-1616) also known as Prosper Alpinus. From 1580 he worked in Cairo as physician to the Venetian consul, Giorgio Emo or Hemi, and took the opportunity to study the local plants and their cultivation, particularly date palms and their reproductive cycle. He returned to Venice in 1586 and was appointed doctor to the Prince of Melfi (Andre Doria), and in 1594 became professor of botany at Padua, as well as in 1603 Director of Padua Botanic Garden. In his writings it is suggested that he drew Europe's attention especially to coffee (*Coffea*) and banana (*Musa*). His published works include *De Medecina Egyptorum* and *De Plantis Aegypti liber*.