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*Amherstia*

*Leguminosae*

[*Fabaceae/Caesalpinaceae*]

*Amherstia* commemorates Lady Sarah Elizabeth Amherst (1762-1838) who was a keen amateur naturalist and collected plants. She accompanied her husband when he was appointed governor-general of India in 1823 (after his unsuccessful Peking mission in 1816) a post which embraced the period of the first Burmese War in 1824.

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.