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*Brahea*

*Palmae*

[*Areaceae*]

*Brahea* commemorates a noted Danish astronomer and mathematician, Tycho Brahe (1546-1601). He studied at several European universities and in 1566 lost the bridge of his nose in a rapier duel with a fellow student. In 1572 Brahe discovered a new star and in the early 1570s became convinced of the importance of accurate observations. Under the patronage of King Frederick II he built an observatory on the island of Hven in 1576 where, apart from training the next generation of astronomers, developing and calibrating new astronomical instruments, and establishing nightly observations (the latter two contributing significantly to the advancement of astronomy), he also made observations of a comet in 1577. But the Danish royal family's support was withdrawn by Frederick's successor Christian IV after a disagreement and Brahe left Denmark in 1597, settling in Prague two years later (this time under the patronage of Emperor Rudolf II (1552-1612) who appointed him as Imperial Mathematician). In 1600 the German mathematician, astronomer and astrologer, Johannes Kepler (1571-1630) joined him as an assistant and authorities note that in later years he would use Brahe's observations (the most accurate at that time) when formulating his Laws of Planetary Motion..Brahe's death in 1601 was grim and some authorities speculate today that it may have been caused by mercury poisoning (accidental or nefarious). Many 'objects' have been named 'Tycho' after Brahe, ranging from a crater on both the Moon and Mars to modern pop bands and computer game characters. His published works included *De Nova et Nullius Aevi Memoria Prius Visa Stella*, *Astronomiae Instauratae Mechanica*, and *Astronomiae Instauratae Progymnasmata*.