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*Brunfelsia*

*Solanaceae*

*Brunfelsia* commemorates a 16<sup>th</sup> Century German Carthusian monk (from 1514-1521) who, after his conversion to protestantism, headed a list of heretics published it would seem at the order of Emperor Ferdinand I in 1550.. This theologian, botanist and physician was Otto Brunfels (c. 1489-1534) who later was to be described by the Swedish naturalist, Carolus Linnaeus (1707-1778) as a founder of European botany. But this view would seem to have been debated since Linnaeus' time. Some authorities point out that the prime work upon which the sobriquet relies, *Herbarum vivae eicones ad naturae imitationem* (1530), while containing some of Brunfels' own observations, uses primarily inappropriate classical Greek and Roman plant descriptions still revered at that time. It is suggested by some that the work's importance could rest more securely on the quality of the drawings and woodcuts of plants which are said to be more accurately and carefully observed from botanical specimens by the German illustrator, Hans Weiditz (c.1495-c.1536), than those produced before him.