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*Chorizema*

*Leguminosae*

[*Fabaceae/Papilionaceae*]

*Chorizema* is derived for some from Greek *choris* (separate) and *nemato-* (thread) components and for others from Greek *koros* (dance) and *zema* (drinking vessel) components. Both possibilities however are meant to be in reference to parts of the stamens. But speculation persists further as some authorities have also suggested that the name arose as an expression of a dance for joy attributed to d'Entrecasteaux's sailors when they were reunited with their missing colleague, Riche (not least as they may have been running out water and the colleague's return would mean they could up anchors and look for drinking water elsewhere). In any event it provides support for the latter derivation. The story goes that Riche became lost for 2-3 days as he was plant collecting and his return coincided with the discovery of the species *C. ilicifolium* or as it is more often known today *C. cordatum* (heart-leaved flame pea).

The genus was discovered and named by the French botanist and explorer who came to be particularly associated with Australasian flora, Julien J.H. de la Billardière (1755-1834). He was one of several highly respected crew members and scientists who accompanied the French navigator Joseph Antoine Bruni d'Entrecasteaux (1739-1793) on his expedition in the early 1790s. This expedition was actually put together in order to search for a missing hero of France, La Pérouse (1741-1788) and in the process it explored and charted parts of the Australian coastline (including Tasmania) in 1792-1793.

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.