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*Cinchona*

*Rubiaceae*

In 1638 (five years after a Jesuit priest, a Father Calancha, had written about a ‘miraculous cure’) the Viceroy of Peru succumbed to malaria and the powdered bark of the plant, that authorities tell us now would have been most unpleasant to take, was used to achieve his recovery. [Some authorities say that his wife was the patient.] The local Indians knew it as *quechua* or *quinquina* meaning ‘bark of bark’ but to commemorate the Viceroy’s return to health (or that of his wife) the Spaniards christened the plant after his wife, the Countess de Chinchon. Certainly it is a historical fact that the Viceroy sent an expedition into the interior in 1639 to search for the miracle tree and its bark.