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*Dicksonia*

*Dicksoniaceae*

[*Cyatheaceae*]

*Dicksonia* commemorates a Scottish nurseryman and plant collector, James Dickson (1738-1822). In 1772 (having run his own nursery in Perth and then worked in two in London) he established a plant and seed shop in Covent Garden. Through this he met not only the Scottish horticulturist, William Forsyth (1737-1804) but also the English botanist Sir Joseph Banks (1744-1820). The latter not only offered him access to his own botanical library and introductions to other botanists but also arranged for him to tend the British Museum's garden. After the death of his first wife he married a sister of the young Mungo Park (1771-1806) and a few years later introduced Park to Sir Joseph Banks which led directly to Park's exploring career. In 1788 not only was Dickson honoured when his name was chosen for this genus but he was also a founder member of the Linnean Society of London (and in 1804 the Horticultural Society, London as well). Dickson's plant collecting expeditions in Scotland and the Hebrides fed his own especial interest in mosses and other non-flowering species. He published, with the assistance of a Polish gentleman, John Ziers who was living in London and the Scottish botanist, Robert Brown (1773-1858), four volumes of *Plantarum Cryptogamicarum Britanniae*.