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*Dieffenbachia*

*Araceae*

*Dieffenbachia* can commemorate one or more people including J. Dieffenbach and Johann Karl Ernst Dieffenbach. The most likely candidate appears to be (uncertain) in this case.

A German botanist, J. Dieffenbach (1790-1863) who controlled the gardens of the Viennese royal palace at Schönbrunn in about 1830.

A German physician, geologist, naturalist, linguist and writer, Johann Karl Ernst Dieffenbach (1811-1855), known as Ernst Dieffenbach, who in 1837 took refuge in England as a political fugitive from Germany (and one year's sojourn in Switzerland) because of his liberal views. In 1839 he travelled to New Zealand and surveyed the Country (including the Chatham Islands) for the New Zealand Company which was interested in the agricultural land and minerals for prospective European settlements. At the same time he made extensive collections of natural history specimens including plants. In 1841 he returned to England and then on eventually to Germany where after 1848 he became professor of geology at Geissen. His writing included contributions to medical and scientific journals, correspondence with Charles Darwin during the 1840s, and translations of many papers into German not least Charles Darwin's Journal of his researches, and among his longer published works, *Travels in New Zealand* covering the then geography, geology, flora and fauna of that Country.