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*Erica*

*Ericaceae*

*Erica* is derived from Greek *ereike* (heath, heather) used by the Greek philosopher Theophrastus (c.372-c.287 BC). In the writings of the Roman natural historian Pliny (23-79) this became *erice*.

The genus name has no connection with the girl's name Erica which comes from the ancient northern name Eric or Eirik and means 'ever king'.

Apparently there are over 500 species in this genus and more than 90% of them are native to the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa.