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*Fallopia*

*Polygonaceae*

*Fallopia* commemorates an Italian physician, anatomist and botanist, Gabriele Falloppio (1523-1562), also known as Fallopius. He began his career as a canon in the cathedral at Modena and after obtaining a medical degree became professor of anatomy at Ferrara in 1548, Pisa in 1549 and Padua in 1551. In addition he was professor of botany and superintendent of the botanical gardens at Padua. Lay awareness of him today is primarily directed towards his study of the reproductive organs not least because, in orthodox Western medicine, the connection between the ovaries and uterus ie. the Fallopian tube, is named after him. (It was Falloppio who named the vagina and the clitoris, as well as the placenta.) But some authorities point out that his prime interest was the anatomy of the head, notwithstanding his studies of the body's bones and muscles. He also made a significant contribution to practical medicine, including the diagnosis and treatment of diseases, and the introduction of new surgical procedures.