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*Halesia*

*Styracaceae*

*Halesia* commemorates an English clergyman, physiologist, chemist and inventor, the Reverend Stephen Hales (1677-1761) who authorities view as a pioneer in experimental physiology. His many experiments are described as of particular significance with reference to the growth of plants and the blood flow in animals and other experiments included investigation of food preservation. Among his inventions were a fresh air ventilator (which led to higher survival rates in hospitals, prisons and ships), surgical forceps for extracting kidney and bladder stones, and a gauge for taking soundings at sea. He was ordained in 1709, named the same year as a member of the committee which oversaw the establishment of a colony in Georgia in North America (this colony initially avoided the slave trade to which Dr. Hales happened to be opposed), elected a Fellow of The Royal Society in 1717, received The Society's Copley Medal in 1739, appointed in 1751 Clerk of the Closet to Princess Augusta, The Dowager Princess of Wales (1736-1751), and in 1753 became foreign-associate of the French Academy of Sciences.. His published works included *Statical Essays*, *Friendly Admonitions to Dram-Drinkers* and *A Treatise on Ventilators*.