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Hatiora

Cactaceae

Hatiora is an anagram of *Hariota* which was allocated to another genus before this one was named. *Hatiora* commemorates an English mathematician, cartographer and astronomer, Thomas Hariot (c.1560-1621), who was a scientific adviser on the 1585 expedition to colonize Virginia in North America. Although planned by the English navigator and pirate, Sir Walter Raleigh (1552-1618), assisted by Hariot, Raleigh was not allowed by Elizabeth I (1533-1603) to bring the expedition to fruition (in order to avoid drawing Spanish attention to him) so it was led by the English explorer and naval commander, Sir Richard Grenville (c.1541-1591). While in North America Hariot collected plant and mineral specimens, helped to record details of the way of life of local native Indians and took celestial sightings during the voyage. On his return Hariot wrote *Brief and True Report of the New Found Land of Virginia*. He had two patrons, the other being Henry Percy, the 9th Earl of Northumberland (1564-1632), to whom he especially turned when Raleigh was out of favour. As he did not publish the results of so many of his experiments and discoveries authorities believe his achievements are much undervalued. One work published posthumously was *Artis analyticae praxis*.