

*Impatiens walleriana*

[Synonyms : *Impatiens holstii*, *Impatiens hostii*, *Impatiens petersiana*, *Impatiens siltanii*, *Impatiens sultanii*]

**BUSY LIZZIE** is a succulent evergreen perennial. Native to eastern Africa (from Tanzania to Mozambique), it has small spurred, bright scarlet, white, purple, pink or bi-coloured flowers.

It is also known as Buzzy lizzy, *Fleissiges Lieschen* (German), *Flitiga Lisa* (Swedish), *Impatiens*, *Netýkavka sultánka* (Czech), *Netýkavka sultánska* (Slovak), *Netýkavka wallerova* (Czech), Patience, Patient Lucy, Red perennial balsam, Sultana, Sultan's balsam, Sultan's flower, and Zanzibar balsam.

Warning – strong doses can cause vomiting.

*Walleriana* commemorates an Anglican missionary and slavery abolitionist, the Reverend Horace Waller (1833-1896), who worked in Central Africa. In 1860 as a lay superintendent he travelled to Nyasaland (now Malawi) where, while working repelling raids on the Mission by slavers, he met David Livingstone (1813-1873) and John Kirk (1832-1922). In 1863 the Mission kept the boys and rejected the women and girls in a party of liberated slaves and Waller resigned and took the girls and women with him to South Africa for fear that they would end up in slavery again. Then he returned to England in 1864, the same year he became a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society. In 1867 he found his correspondence with John Kirk (now a vice-consul in Zanzibar and his own experience of Africa sought after with false rumours circulating of Livingstone's death. In 1868 he was ordained and by 1874 had become rector of Twywell in Northamptonshire. This living enabled him not only to look after his family and meet his vocational aspirations but also to follow his strong abolitionist inclinations. He had addressed an international anti-slavery meeting in Paris in 1867 and his continued correspondence with both Livingstone and Kirk (let alone others as time went by) enabled him to contribute much to the anti-slavery debate. In 1870 he became a member of the committee of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society and in 1882 joined the home committee of the Universities' Mission to Central Africa (UMCA), the body that sent him out to Nyasaland in the first place. When asked to edit Livingstone's final journals (after his death in 1874) authorities now report that Waller was not impartial and coloured his editing with a romantic anti-slavery bias which would influence much of subsequent published material. He wrote letters to newspapers and journals and published pamphlets on anti-slavery matters as well. In 1895 he retired from his living and moved south to Hampshire where, the following year he died. The latter included *On Some African Entanglements of Great Britain*, and *Slaving and Slavery in our British Protectorates, Nyssaland and Zanzibar*.