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*Kalmia*

*Ericaceae*

*Kalmia* commemorates a Swedish/Finnish economist and natural historian, botanist and plant collector, Pehr Kalm (1715-1779), who was a pupil of Carolus Linnaeus (the celebrated Swedish naturalist and physician). From 1742-1746 he received backing for field research in Finland, Sweden, Ukraine and Russia not least with regard to agricultural development. He became a member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in 1745. In 1747 he became professor of economics (embracing botany, zoology, chemistry and mineralogy) at the Åbo Akademi University, Finland. He then travelled to North America for the Swedish Government with the task of assessing that Continent's natural plant resources and their possible economic value for Sweden. His route west took him via England where he stayed for six months and met some of the leading botanists with North American knowledge who were able to provide introductions to their peers (including Benjamin Franklin) in the New World. His expedition lasted from 1747-1751 and took him to both the United States and Canada (with emphasis directed to climates similar to that of Sweden) and included the collection of seeds and specimens and the accumulation of natural, cultural and historical information in his journals. His report of this journey was published as *En Resa til Norra America* and was translated into several European languages.