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*Laportea*

*Urticaceae*

*Laportea* commemorates, according to some authorities, an untraced Frenchman who may have been aboard the corvette *L'Uranie* when she carried a French botanist, Charles Gaudichaud Beaupré (1789-1854) in 1817-1820 on one of his two global circumnavigations. There are others who believe it commemorates a French naturalist, Frances de la Porte (1812-1880), who was Count of Castelnau. He traversed the North American Continent from Canada to Mexico as leader of a French scientific expedition from 1837-1841 to study lakes. Then he was the first, with peers, to cross the South American Continent from Peru to Brazil, between the watersheds of the La Plata and Amazon river systems, in a subsequent scientific expedition from 1843-1847. In 1848 for a short time he was French Consul in Bahia (a large region on the central South Atlantic coast of Brazil) and later that year travelled to Asia where he had been appointed French Consul in Siam (a post he relinquished in 1862). He ended his days in Australia where he was French consul in Melbourne from 1864-1877. De la Porte was a member of the Zoological and Acclimatisation Society of Victoria (which no longer exists) and The Entomological Society of New South Wales (which seems to have been reformed in 1953). His published works include *Histoire Naturelle*, *Expédition dans les parties centrales de l'Amérique: histoire naturelle des insectes coléoptères*, and *Mémoires sur les poissons de l'Afrique australe*.