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*Layia*

*Compositae*  
[*Asteraceae*]

*Layia* commemorates a Scottish explorer, missionary, naturalist and translator, George Tradescant Lay (c.1800-1845 or 1847). He accompanied Captain Frederick William Beechey (1796-1856) as naturalist on HMS *Blossom* on her 1825-1828 expedition of exploration in the Pacific North-west and the Bering Straits. The expedition returned with many plant specimens from the South Pacific, South America, Mexico, California and Hawaii, Alaska, Kamchatka and China, and in 1841 Sir William Hooker (1785-1865) would publish *Botany of Beechey's Voyage to the Pacific and Behring's Straits*. Lay went to China in 1836 as agent for The British and Foreign Bible Society, lived in Macao, learnt Chinese and acquired the name Li Tao Guo. After the First Opium War he was the interpreter at the British/Chinese signing of the Treaty of Nanjing. Then in 1843 he became British Consul in Canton and ended up in the treaty port of Xiamen (once familiar to Europeans as Amoy).