

*Linnaea*

*Caprifoliaceae*

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*Linnaea* commemorates a Swedish naturalist, physician, zoologist and plant collector, Carolus Linnaeus (1707-1778) who established the most widely used basis for modern scientific nomenclature of plants and animals. He started working on his classification system, *Systema Naturae*, in 1735, a work he would be revising in subsequent editions over many years and would eventually embrace minerals, as well as plants and animals. That same year he finished his studies in the Netherlands, and stayed on for three years during which he visited England briefly and met some of his peers at Oxford University. 1738 saw him returning to his homeland and practising medicine (he would eventually become physician to the Swedish royal family) and lecturing in Stockholm. In 1741 he became a professor of medicine (soon changed to botany) at Uppsala. There he restored the botanical garden and at the same time the 1740s for him were dotted with field trips in Sweden to classify animals and plants. Earlier he had gone alone on expeditions in Sweden and to Lapland on which he observed both nature and culture. Now he was often accompanied by a good number of enthusiastic students – and on graduation many of them went on expeditions all over the world and sent plants and information back to him. One of his ambitions however had been to find Swedish native economic plants that could make the Country self-sufficient for food and prevent famines but this was never fulfilled. In 1739 he was one of the founders of The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences and was appointed its secretary in 1744. In time he was also a member of many foreign scientific bodies too. Then in 1757 he was ennobled by his sovereign and took the name von Linné. Apart from *Systema Naturae* his published works include *Species Plantarum*. Twinflower was one of his favourite flowers. Some authorities say that he christened the plant with his own name, while others contend that Johann Frederik Gronovius (a Dutch botanist and friend born in 1686) re-named it and gave Linnaeus the opportunity to approve the name. [Its original name *Campanula serpyllifolia* was believed to have been given to it in 1596 by Caspar or Gaspard Bauhin (1560-1624) the younger of the two Swiss brothers, both of whom were physicians and botanists.]