

You are viewing one of thousands of biographies – click below for more, including Search box and access to Plant associated organisations.

[Plant Biographies](#)

[Bibliography](#)

---

*Lobelia*

*Campanulaceae*

[*Lobelioideae*]

*Lobelia* commemorates a Flemish physician, botanist, plant collector and traveller, Matthias de l'Obel (1538-1616), who was doctor to James VI of Scotland and I of England (1566-1625). From 1554 he travelled widely in central and western Europe, studying at various universities and collecting and observing plants. In 1567 he arrived in England, practised medicine in Bristol. Various botanical works were then published through to 1581 with which he established his reputation including *Plantarum seu stirpium historia*, and *Stirpium icones*. From 1578-1584 he was court physician to William I of Orange-Nassau (1533-84), the first hereditary stadtholder of the United Provinces of the Netherlands, who led the revolt of the northern provinces against Spain and was assassinated. (*Het Wilhelmus*, the Dutch national anthem which is the oldest in the world is about that first stadtholder.) In 1590 he moved to England and became Superintendent of the grounds of Edward la Zouche's (1556-1625) Hackney home. During this period he also catalogued the plants in John Gerard's (1545-1612) garden in Holborn. In 1604, returning from a brief stay in Flanders, he practised medicine again in London and in 1607 was appointed as botanist and physician to the court of James I.

Species in this genus are poisonous.