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*Macleaya*

*Papaveraceae*

*Macleaya* commemorates a Scottish entomologist, Alexander Macleay (1767-1848) who was Colonial Secretary of New South Wales (Australia). He became a Fellow of the Linnean Society of London in 1794 (Secretary from 1798-1825), in 1808 became a Fellow of The Royal Society and he was a corresponding member of several other European bodies, including the Swedish Royal Academy of Science which awarded him a diploma in 1814. When his Civil Service career finished he moved to Australia after he was appointed Colonial Secretary of New South Wales in 1825, a post he held until early 1837. Then from 1843-1846 he was first speaker in the State's newly formed Legislative Council. He had become a major landowner and between 1835-1839 had built Elizabeth Bay House. He had also maintained his involvement in natural history by not only enlarging his collection of, primarily, insects (which had been renowned before he moved it to Australia and which would eventually form the basis of the Macleay Museum at the University of Sydney), but also through correspondence with his fellow members in the two Societies in London. He became involved in many other aspects of life in New South Wales, not least he was a supporter of the Sydney Botanic Garden and President of the Australian Museum of natural history and anthropology (Australia's oldest museum), founder-president for ten years of the prestigious Australian Club in Sydney, and a member of the board of the subscription library.