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*Mentzelia*

*Loasaceae*

*Mentzelia* commemorates a German physician, botanist and philologist, Christian Mentzel (1622-1701), who was a personal physician to the Elector of Brandenburg. In his later years he is said to have devoted his studies to the Chinese language. He was a member of the now Viennese Leopoldine Academy (founded in Leipzig in Germany in 1652 as *Naturæ Curiosorum*). Apart from a book on Brazil and a German-Chinese dictionary, his published works include *Index nominum plantarum universalis*.