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*Mertensia*

*Boraginaceae*

*Mertensia* commemorates a German philologist, botanist and algologist, Franz Carl Mertens (1764-1831), who taught theology and languages at a Bremen college but devoted the rest of his time to botany. He often collected plant specimens with the German botanist, Albrecht Wilhelm Roth (1757-1834), and he specialised in seaweed. He not only travelled all over Europe but also corresponded with leading European naturalists and much of the correspondence can be found in the library archives of the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation in Pennsylvania, USA. Mertens illustrated Roth's *Catalecta botanica* and also described some of the seaweed species it contained.