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*Mesembryanthemum*

*Aizoaceae*

[*Mesembryanthemaceae*]

*Mesembryanthemum* was originally spelt *Mesembrianthemum*, by the Polish merchant and botanist, Jacob Breyne (1637-1697) in 1684, derived from Greek *mesembria*- (midday, noon) and *-antheon* (flower) components meaning ‘flowering at noon’. But a night-flowering species was then identified and in 1719 the German botanist, Johann Jakob Dillenius (1687-1747) proposed the revised spelling with a ‘y’ plus derivation from Greek *meso*- (middle, half), *embryo*- (embryo, unborn, unformed) and *-antheon* (flower) components with reference to the plant’s reproductive structure.