
Millettia *Leguminosae*
[*Fabaceae*/*Papilionaceae*]

Millettia can commemorate one of several people, including Charles Millett and J.A. Millet.

The most likely candidate appears to be in this case a British plant collector, Charles Millett (1792-1873), who served in senior posts in the East India Company in Asia from 1824 or 1825-1834. During this period he lived in China (Macáu and Canton), moving from there it is believed to Ceylon and Malabar (south-western India) and then on to Java, from 1831-1834, before returning home to London. He corresponded with several British botanists. These included Sir William Jackson Hooker (1785-1865) - at least from the 1820s while the latter was Regius Professor of Botany at Glasgow and some authorities believe that the communications continued through to Sir William's appointment as the first director of Kew and on to his death while still in post. Another of Millett's correspondents is believed to have been the British botanist, clergyman and geologist, John Stevens Henslow (1796-1861), Professor of Botany and Mineralogy, Cambridge. Millett collected plants locally wherever he was working and obtained assistance in this from local people during his East India Company appointment in Java. He is claimed in particular to have introduced several Chinese plants to the United Kingdom through Glasgow University's Botanical Garden.

NOTE: Appreciative thanks are due to a retired botanist for drawing my attention to an IPNI citation and thus not only greater awareness of the paucity of information available when my original definition was researched but also the inadequacy of the original biography now. However the expanded wording remains circumspect as the degree of factual accuracy may be subject to confusion still – as witnessed in the more detailed definition in http://www.calflora.net/southafrica/1L-O.html

Members of this family (*Leguminosae*) absorb nitrogen from the air. Through the bacterial nodules on their deep growing roots they will introduce nitrogen to the soil (and aerate it) to the benefit of neighbouring plants and any following them in the same soil.