

You are viewing one of thousands of biographies – click below for more, including Search box and access to Plant associated organisations.

[Plant Biographies](#)

[Bibliography](#)

---

*Molinia*

*Gramineae*

[*Poaceae*]

*Molinia* commemorates a Chilean Jesuit priest, historian, geographer and botanist, Juan Ignacio Molina (1740-1829) who was expelled from Chile with all other Jesuits (under the orders of Charles III of Spain to suppress all Jesuits on Spanish land in 1767). He settled in Bologna as a tutor and wrote (with the support of other exiled countrymen) of both the natural and civil history of Chile, works which were published in several languages. Some authorities note he suggested that humans evolved gradually over time thus antedating Charles Darwin's theories on evolution. Molina used a fortune inherited from a nephew in 1815 to found the Liceo de Talca and a library there. Chile has honoured his memory in the name of a town Molina, near Talca and with pictures of him on postage stamps issued in 1968 and 1999. His published work include *Compendio della Storia Geografica, Naturale e Civile del Regno del Chile*, *Saggio sulla Storia Naturale del Chile*, *Saggio della Storia Civile del Chile*, and *Memorie di storia naturale lette in Bologna*.