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*Monarda*

*Labiatae*

[*Lamiaceae*]

*Monarda* commemorates a Spanish physician, botanist and apothecary, Nicolas Monardes (1493-1588), who lived all his life in Seville where he was born, practised medicine and sold medicinal plants both European and from the New World. He was recognised by many Europeans as a medicinal expert on plants from North and South America, as well as the Caribbean. He is said to have enthused over alleged medicinal properties in tobacco (*Nicotiana* genus) and to be responsible for its use as a medicine during his life time (and for a further 200 years) throughout Europe. On the other hand although in 1580 he is believed to have introduced coca leaves (*Erythroxylum coca* – chewed by Andean Indians to counter exhaustion) to Europe for medicinal use too, these never became popular on that Continent. In neither case is he ever believed to have contemplated them as suitable recreational substances. Probably his most well known work was *Primera y segunda y tercera partes de la historia medicinal de las cosas que se traen de nuestras Indias occidentales qui sirven en medicinal* written in 1569 on the medicinal plants used at that time in the New World by ‘Western Indians’. (An English translation entitled *Joyfull Newes out of the Newe Founde Worlde* by the English merchant and translator, John Frampton (fl. 1559-1581) was published in 1577.) His other publications include *De Rosa et partibus eius*, and *De malis citiis, aurantiis et limoniis*.