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*Pieris*

*Ericaceae*

*Pieris* honours the Pierides of Greek mythology about whom there seems to be some confusion. On the one hand some authorities believe the Pierides were the nine daughters of King Pieros of Emathia. They audaciously challenged the Muses to a contest of song and lost. But winning and confirming their pre-eminence was insufficient for the Muses as they were unable to countenance the thought that anybody could even consider such a competition and they changed the nine sisters into birds, some say magpies, others ducks, yet others greenfinches and so on, including goldfinches and others. On the other hand other authorities who contend that the Pierides were the Muses themselves because the Thracians had first worshipped them at Pieria near Mount Olympus.