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*Russelia*

*Scrophulariaceae*

[*Plantaginaceae*]

*Russelia* commemorates a Scottish physician and naturalist, Dr. Alexander Russell (1714-1768) who was physician with the Levant Company in Aleppo in Syria (south of the Turkish border) from 1740 to 1753. While out there, apart from learning Arabic and studying the local flora and fauna (he introduced two new plants to Britain), he studied the plague (a subject on which his advice would be sought in later years). Russell was a Fellow of The Royal Society. He published *Natural History of Aleppo*.