

Sabatia elliotii

[Synonyms : *Sabbatia brevifolia*, *Sabatia paniculata*]

QUININE FLOWER is a biennial. Native to south-eastern North America it has white to cream flowers.

It is also known as Elliott's sabatia, and Shortleaf rose gentian.

Elliottii commemorates an American naturalist, Stephen Elliott (1771-1830), who from 1824 was professor of natural history and botany at the Medical College of South Carolina (currently the Medical University of South Carolina due in part or whole to become part of the University of South Carolina in 2009) that he had helped to found. From the mid-1790s to 1812 Elliott ran his family estate and served on the South Carolina State legislature. When in 1812 he became President of the State bank he had established, he left the legislature and moved to Charleston. He was made President of the Charleston Library Society, and was involved in founding the Literary and Philosophical Society of South Carolina (for which he was President from 1814-1830) and also in Charleston the *Southern Review* (which has not survived to the present day). In 1819 he became a vice-president of the American Geological Society (a body which appears to have foundered in about 1828). He was also appointed President of South Carolina College (now the University of South Carolina) in 1820. He maintained correspondence with his peers, built an extensive natural history collection, and published *Sketch of the Botany of South Carolina and Georgia* in addition to writing other manuscripts.

Quinine flower is said to have similar properties to those of cinchona (*Cinchona officinalis*) from which quinine is obtained.