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*Sherardia*

*Rubiaceae*

*Sherardia* commemorates an English botanist, William Sherard (1659-1728). From 1703-1716 he was British Consul at Smyrna (today's Izmir in Turkey although then under the rule of the Ottoman Empire). He returned home a wealthy man which enabled him not only to endow Oxford University's Chair of Botany but also extend his patronage individually to quiet a few of his peers. Upon his death he bequeathed his library and herbarium to Oxford. He was responsible for much background work eg. editing, plant cataloguing, for several botanical publications published by other botanists. Sherard was a Fellow of The Royal Society.