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*Torreya*

*Taxaceae*

Torreya commemorates a celebrated American chemist, physician, botanist and writer, Dr. John Torrey XE "*Torrey, Dr. John*" (1796-1873). *Although he made a living primarily as a Professor of Chemistry which he taught (with mineralogy and geology) from 1824 for three years at the United States Military Academy, West Point XE "Bodies:*, from 1827-1853 through the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York (now part of Columbia University Medical Center) and at the same time (with botany) from 1832 at New York University, but finally assuming the appointment of Assayer of the New York Mint from 1853 until 1873, his prime interest was always botany. Despite his professional duties, he managed to compile, collaborate in and write many important works, including *A Catalog of the Plants Growing Within Thirty Miles of New York, A Compendium of the Flora of the Northern and Middle States*, and in collaboration with his then student, and later colleague and lifelong friend, the acclaimed American botanist, Asa Gray (1810-1888), the earlier sections of *Flora of North America*. He adopted the English John Lindley's classification system of arranging plants by families instead of the by then widely used Linnaeus model and described hundred of plant specimens collected by many of the plant explorers in North America. He was not only a President of AAAS (The American Association for the Advancement of Science) and, on two occasions, President of NYAS (New York Academy of Sciences then known as Lyceum of Natural History of New York) but also founder the Torrey Botanical Club (now the Torrey Botanical Society).