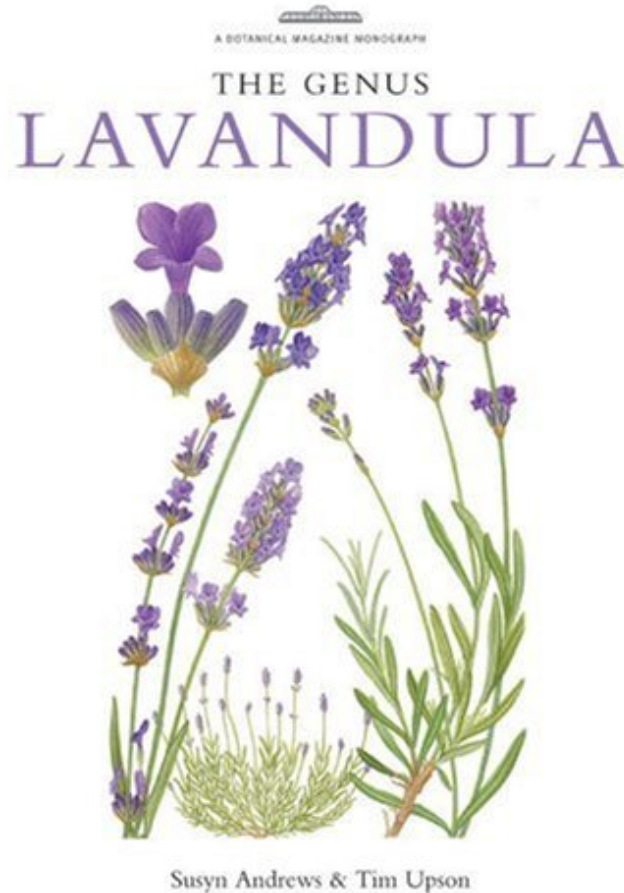


(Library ebook) The Genus Lavandula

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Tim Upson, Susyn Andrews

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Tim Upson, Susyn Andrews : The Genus Lavandula before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Genus Lavandula:

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By S D Cummings This is our basic research book for our public lavender garden. The most detailed book on lavender varieties and absolutely essential for researching lavender.

Long prized by the fragrance industry for its essential oils, the genus *Lavandula* is steadily increasing in popularity among gardeners and horticulturists worldwide. This is the first full treatment of this important genus to be undertaken since 1937. It treats 40 species and their cultivars and hybrids, presenting their taxonomy, distribution, and the history

of their cultivation. With several useful appendices, as well as chapters on cultivation, propagation, and pests and diseases, *The Genus Lavandula* is a comprehensive and authoritative account of this important genus. Exquisite paintings from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, complement the text.

About the Author Tim Upson is the Superintendent of Cambridge University Botanic Garden. My interests are in plant diversity, reflected both in my position as Superintendent of the University Botanic Garden and research in plant systematics and conservation. As Superintendent much of my time involves curating and running the Botanic Garden, which grows over 8,000 plant species and provides research facilities, as part of its role. Research interests are in plant systematics and are presently focused on the family Labiatae and especially the genera *Rosmarinus* and *Lavandula*, the latter currently being monographed. This utilises herbarium studies and molecular methods to investigate phylogenetic relationships and biogeography. Major collections of both genera are held at the Botanic Garden, which also include many cultivars, grown to investigate the horticultural taxonomy of these economically important plants. Other research interests include the systematics of the Araceae, the conservation and evolution of island plants. Upson, T.M. Jury, S.L. (2002). A revision of native Moroccan species of *Lavandula* L. section *Pterostoechas* Ging. Lamiaceae. *Taxon* 51: 309-327. Upson, T.M. Jury, S.L. (2003). The re-circumscription and lectotypification of *Lavandula antineae* Maire and description of a new species *L. saharica* Upson Jury (Lamiaceae). *Kew Bull.* 58(4). Upson, T.M. Andrews, S.A. (2003). A new species of *Lavandula* L. (Lamiaceae) from Gran Canaria, Canary Islands. *Kew Bull.* 58(4). Upson, T.M. Andrews, S.A. (2004). *The Genus Lavandula*. Botanical Magazine Monograph. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Tam, S.M., Boyce, P.C., Upson, T.M., Barabe, D., Brunneau, A, Forest, F. Parker, J.S. (2004). Intrafamilial phylogeny of Araceae and the origins of the aroids based on chloroplast Trn L-F intergenic spacer. *American Journal of Botany*. In press. Susyn Andrews, recently of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, is a world-leading horticultural taxonomist and was the co-founder and Chairman of the Horticultural Taxonomy Group. She has published over 150 scientific papers and articles, was the senior editor of *Taxonomy of Cultivated Plants* (1999), has sat on the ISHS Commission for Nomenclature and Registration, is an Honorary Research Associate at Kew, and currently serves on several scientific and horticultural committees. An enthusiastic gardener, her main interests are temperate and subtropical woody plants and her passion for lavenders stretches back 15 years. Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved.

Lavenders have been known since ancient times. The first written account can be traced to the Greek physician Dioscorides in about AD 65 (Anderson, 1977), who knew *L. stoechas* and wrote primarily of its medicinal value. Throughout the Middle Ages new written works on botany were rare but the Abbess Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179) is credited with the earliest mention of lavender (probably referable to *L. angustifolia* and *L. latifolia*) and discussed their medicinal properties. During the Renaissance new works became more common and the invention of printing in Europe enabled much larger quantities of books to be produced. In the field of botany the first of these new works were the herbals and these related primarily to the value of plants for medicine and food. Given the attributes associated with lavender it is of no surprise that they appear in many of the herbals of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries and the recognition of several species can be attributed to the herbalists. These include the species we now refer to as *L. angustifolia*, *L. latifolia*, *L. multifida*, *L. dentata* and *L. pedunculata*. During the latter half of the sixteenth century and the early seventeenth century, interest in plants purely for their medicinal uses and other virtues began to change with the early taxonomists, who also studied plants for their intrinsic and scientific value (Stace, 1989). In this period further species were recognised, such as *L. viridis* and *L. canariensis*. Works of this period had a major influence on subsequent classifications. Particularly influential was the French botanist Joseph Pitton de Tournefort (1656-1708). He had a clear idea of generic concepts and described many genera in his most important work, *Institutiones Rei Herbariae* (Tournefort, 1700). He recognised what we now regard as the genus *Lavandula* as two separate genera, *Lavandula* itself (containing *L. spica* and *L. multifida*), and *Stoechas* (consisting of *L. stoechas* and *L. dentata*). This brings us to modern botanical nomenclature which begins with *Species Plantarum* by the Swedish botanist Carolus Linnaeus (1707-1778) (Linnaeus, 1753). At that time, it was mainly the European and Mediterranean floras that were known to any great degree and this was reflected in the seven species of *Lavandula* then recognised. In terms of modern nomenclature the earlier names are discounted, being long phrase names which were greatly confused by different authors. Linnaeus, who used binomial names, was the first to provide modern names for some of these species: *L. dentata*, *L. stoechas*, *L. spica* (including both *L. angustifolia* and *L. latifolia*) and *L. multifida*. Also important for the publication of the first modern binomial names, was the 8th edition of the *Gardeners Dictionary* (Miller, 1768). In addition to the four names recognised by Linnaeus, Philip Miller (1691-1771) recognised and provided the first binomial names for *L. canariensis*, *L. angustifolia* and *Stoechas pedunculata* (*L. pedunculata*). Miller followed Tournefort in recognising two genera, *Lavandula* and *Stoechas*, whose classification he considered far superior to that of Linnaeus. In fact most authors of the time recognised these two genera, and Linnaeus differed by uniting them. It is Linnaeus' generic concept that has survived to the present day.