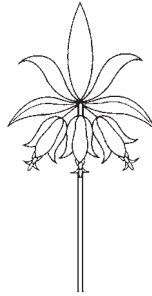


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Jamaican plant genera named by Patrick Browne (ca. 1720–1790): A checklist with an attempt at an etymology

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Abstract

Patrick Browne's generic names for Jamaican native plants, published during 1756, are listed and their etymology is explained.

In *The Civil and Natural History of Jamaica* published in London on 10 May 1756 (Nelson 1997), the Irish-born physician Dr Patrick Browne published generic names for about one hundred Jamaican plants. Subsequently, Browne also provided Linnaeus with descriptions of the genera *Prockia* and *Vandellia* and evidently suggested those names.

This checklist of Browne's generic names is arranged as follows. The name is followed by the page number (in brackets) of the protologue from *The Civil and Natural History of Jamaica* (Browne 1756), with the meaning and derivation following. Names in **bold italics** are current ones, those in *italics* are not. Names from other sources are annotated accordingly.

Greek words (other than some generic names) are transliterated as the Romans wrote them, as this is the usual convention for botanical Latin. Long vowels in Greek (G.) and Latin (L.) words from which generic names are derived are marked by a horizontal line over

them. Most meanings are taken from Liddell and Scott (1940) and Lewis and Short (1879). When Browne's name has been rejected or conserved, this is indicated by **nom. rej.** and **nom. consv.** (or **nom. & typ. consv.** when the type is also conserved) respectively, with the accepted synonym for a rejected name at the end of the entry. In some instances the spelling of a name is conserved; this is indicated by **orth. consv.** Relevant passages from *The Civil and Natural History of Jamaica* are quoted to explain derivations. When a name is mentioned in Linnaeus' correspondence with Browne (transcribed in Nelson and Walsh 1995, pp. 213–241), this is also noted (e.g., "Linnaeus to Browne 19 October 1756" signals that this name is in Linnaeus' letter of that date). Information about numbers of species worldwide and in Jamaica is derived mainly from Adams (1972) and Mabberley (1987).

As a postscript to this list, it may be noted that in Browne's *unpublished* manuscript catalogues of Caribbean plants (see Nelson 2000, note 15) there are other new names. As they have never been published they are not included here (see Nelson 2000, note 13).

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Achimenes (270) **nom. rej.:** according to Paxton (1868), a word of unknown meaning; others have suggested a derivation from G. *a-* (negative prefix), *chīmaenō* (I am stormy), perhaps intended to have the meaning of the related noun *chīmōn* (winter). Rejecting this latter interpretation, Souster (1959) remarked that “The origin of the name ... [is] a matter for guess-work.” In this overlooked note, Souster pointed out that Dioscorides (AD ca. 40–ca. 90) had used the name *Achaemenis* for a plant otherwise known as *Polium*, which has been identified as *Teucrium polium* L. He commented that Browne would almost certainly have known of this, and suggested that Browne simply reused Dioscorides’ name: “In borrowing, adapting, and applying this name to a quite different plant, he would only have been doing what has been done many times before and since with classical plant names.”

Browne wrote that “this beautiful vegetable is a native of the cooler mountains ... and deserves to be cultivated in all the flower-gardens, in the cooler parts [of Jamaica].” (= *Columnea* L. (Gesneriaceae)).

Acidoton (355) **nom. rej.:** neuter of G. *acidōtos* (pointed); Browne described this as “*Frutescens aculeatum & diffusum...*” (= *Flueggea* Willd. (Euphorbiaceae)).

Acidoton was a plant name used by Dioscorides as a synonym for *potirion* or *potērion*, a name used by the Ancient Greeks for a burnet not belonging to the present-day genus *Poterium* (Rosaceae) according to Stearn (1992), although Liddell and Scott (1940) identified it as “goat’s thorn”, a species of *Astragalus* (Fabaceae).

Acidocroton: Brummitt (1992) also listed *Acidocroton* P. Browne, but that generic name, if it exists, was not published by Browne.

Acisanthera (217): properly *Acidanthera*, from G. *acis* (a point, barb), and botanical L. *anthēra* (anther, from feminine of G. *anthēros*, flowery,

blooming); “*antherae oblongae sagittatae & subarcuatae...*” Melastomataceae, 35 spp: 1 sp. in Jamaica (*A. quadrata* Pers.; syn. *Rhexia acisanthera* L.).

Adelia (361) **nom. rej.:** from G. *adēliā* (uncertainty, obscurity), derived from *a-* (negative prefix), *dēlos*, (clear, manifest); probably an allusion to the obscure (i.e., minute) flowers, “*Periantium Biphyllum minimum*” (cf. *Adelia* L.). (= *Forestiera Poir.* (Oleaceae)).

Alicastrum (372) **nom. rej.:** from L. *alica* (a kind of grain, spelt), *-astrum* (suffix, usually indicating incomplete likeness or inferiority). This name was used by Columella, a Roman writer on husbandry (fl. AD 50), for a kind of spelt, summer-spelt.

The vernacular name given by Browne was bread-nuts. He also stated that young shoots and leaves were “a hearty fattening fodder” for cattle, while the fruits, eaten with meat, had been “frequently the support of the negroes and poorer sorts of white people, in times of scarcity.” (= *Brosimum* Sw. (Moraceae)).

Amellus (317) **nom. rej.:** the name used by Virgil (70–19 BC) for an aster (perhaps *Aster amellus* L.) that grew by the River Mella, northern Italy. The Jamaican plant looks like an aster. (= *Liabum* Adans. (Asteraceae)).

Amerimnon (288): a plant name used by Pliny (the Elder, AD 23 or 24–79), neuter of G. *amerimnos* (free from care, uncared for, bringing more freedom from care), derived from *a-* (negative prefix), *merimna* (care, especially anxious care). Paxton (1868) stated that Pliny’s name applied to “the house-leek [*Sempervivum* sp.] ... in allusion to the little attention the plant requires.” (= *Dalbergia* L.f. (Fabaceae). *D. brownei* (Jacq.) Urb. (syn. *Amerimnon brownei* Sw.) is named after Browne. *D. ecastaphyllum* (L.) Taub. incorporates Browne’s generic name *Ecastaphyllum* (see below)).

Amyris (208): probably related to G. *myron* (sweet oil, unguent, perfume); the prefix *a-* is certainly not negative, and perhaps was

intended to be intensive. “All the parts of this tree are full of warm, aromatic particles, and may be used in baths and fermentations ... The berries ... have much of the taste of the balsam Copaiba.” Rutaceae, 30 spp: 3 spp in Jamaica. (Linnaeus to Browne 19 October 1756).

Anthelmenthia (156): properly *Anthelminthia*, from G. *anti-* (prefix meaning against, in opposition to), *helminthion*, diminutive of *helmins* (an intestinal worm): “takes its present denomination from its peculiar efficacy in destroying of worms....” (= *Spigelia* L. (Loganiaceae)).

Argythamnia (338): properly *Argyrothamnia*, from G. *argyros* (silver), *thamnos* (a bush); “*Fruticosa, tota albida...*” Euphorbiaceae, 17 spp: 1 sp. in Jamaica.

Ateramnus (339): from G. *ateramnus* (unsoftened, hard, stubborn, merciless), derived from a- (negative prefix), *teramnus* (see *Teramnus* below); Euphorbiaceae, 4 spp in Jamaica; sometimes placed within *Sapium* P.Br. (“An, ad *Sapium* referri debet?”), and also regarded as synonymous with *Gymnanthes* Sw. (cf. Brummitt 1992).

Barbilus (216): from G. *barbilos* (seedling peach-tree, related to *brabylos*: see *Brabila* below). Browne commented that this plant, called bastard iron-wood, “seems to be nearly akin to *Trichilia*.” (= *Trichilia* P.Br. (Meliaceae)).

Batis (356): a plant name used by Pliny, G. *batis*, akin to *batos* (bramble). Bataceae, 2 spp: *B. maritima* L. (Jamaican samphire, saltwort, beachwort) in Jamaica. (Linnaeus to Browne 19 October 1756).

Bernardia (361): perhaps coined by Browne as a compliment to one Charles Bernard, listed as a subscriber to *The Civil and Natural History of Jamaica*. On the other hand, it has been suggested that Browne took up *Bernardia* from Philip Miller’s *The Gardener’s Dictionary* (the contemporary edition being the sixth, 1752). *Bernardia* Mill. was one of the contributions of Dr William Houston, a Scottish ship’s surgeon

and naturalist who had died in Jamaica in August 1733. (= *Adelia* L. (Euphorbiaceae)).

Beureria (492) **nom. rej.**: see *Bourreria*.

Blakea (323): after Martin Blake, of Antigua, “a gentleman to whose friendship this work [*The Civil and Natural History of Jamaica*] chiefly owes its early appearance” (cf. *Curtis’s Botanical Magazine*, tab. 451). Blake subscribed for four copies of *The Civil and Natural History of Jamaica* (Linnaeus to Browne 19 October 1756). We have not identified this person definitively, but he may have been one Major Martin Blake of Antigua (described as “late of St Christopher’s” in 1735), whose will, dated 29 July 1767 (then of Sevenoaks, Kent), was proven on 16 October 1767 (Olive 1894). Melastomataceae, 100 spp: 2 spp, both endemic, in Jamaica.



Figure 1. Hand-coloured engraving of *Blakea* from the second issue of *The Civil and Natural History of Jamaica* (1789), based on original sketches by Georg Ehret. Photo courtesy of Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation.

Blechnum (261): perhaps from G. *blēchōn* (pennyroyal), or else intended as a variant of *blēchnōn*, a name used by Dioscorides for a fern, perhaps *Dryopteris filix-mas* (L.) Schott. Paxton (1868) incorrectly attributed this name to Jussieu, and suggested that it was “taken from the Greek name for a plant resembling marjoram.”

Browne described *Blechnum* as “*Foliis oblongo-ovatis, spicis crassis foliolatis conico-quadratis subhirsutis.*” Acanthaceae, 6 spp: 3 spp in Jamaica.

Bourreria (168) **nom. consv.:** “after Mr. Bourer, an apothecary of Nuremburg, who was a great promoter of natural history.” Boraginaceae, 50 spp: 2 or 4 spp in Jamaica.

In the index to *The Civil and Natural History of Jamaica* (p. 492) the name is (correctly) rendered *Beureria* (q.v.), because it honours Johann Ambrosius Beurer (1716–1754), a close friend of Georg Ehret (see *Ehretia* below and Calman 1977).

Brabila (370): probably from L. *brabyla*, a plant name used by Pliny, presumably from G. *brabylos* (the tree bearing *brabyla*, sloes, as in Theocritus, a bucolic poet of the 3rd century BC). “The fruit has all the flavour, and much of the appearance of the European plumb.”

Brya (299): perhaps from G. *bryō* (I sprout); a synonym, presumably borrowed from G., used by Pliny for *myrica* (G. *myricē*) or *tamarix* (tamarisk); probably related to G. *bryon*, which had several botanical meanings besides that of botanical L. *bryum* (moss). Browne noted that the slender branches were used as “riding-switches ... and to scourge refractory slaves.”

Stearn (1996) stated that it commemorates J. T. de Bry (1564–1617), an engraver who, among other works, published *Florilegium Novum* in 1612 (Arber 1986), but we cannot see that this is the case, as Browne makes no allusion to such a tribute. Paxton (1868) says: “From the word *bryo*, to sprout; so named on account of the germination of the seed

commencing while on the plant.” Fabaceae, 4 spp: 1 sp., West Indian ebony, in Jamaica.

Buceras (221, 492, tab. 23 fig. 1) **nom. rej.:** from G. *būs* (a bullock, bull, ox or cow), *ceras* (a horn); “On the flower-spikes of this tree you may sometimes find one or more fructifications ... something in the form of a bull’s horn...” In the index to *The Civil and Natural History of Jamaica*, this name is listed as *Buceros*, and as *Bucera* by Brummitt (1992). (= *Bucida* L. (Combretaceae)).

Buceras or *Buceron* was a plant name used by Theophrastus (ca. 372–ca. 287 BC), the poet Nicander (2nd century BC) and Pliny, probably for fenugreek, otherwise called in Latin *faenum graecum* (Greek hay).

Buttneria (166, 490, 492): Browne credited “D. G. Buttner” with a work titled *Plantae Cunonis*; thus David Siegmund August Büttner (1724–1768), Professor of Botany in Göttingen, who wrote *Enumeratio Methodica Plantarum Carmine Clarissimi Joannis Christiani Cuno Recensitarum* (1750), is commemorated. Originally printed as *Butneria* but corrected to *Buttneria* in the list of errata and in the index. (Linnaeus to Browne 19 October 1756). (= *Casasia* A.Rich. (Rubiaceae)).

Canella (275): a diminutive of L. (originally G.) *canna* (a reed, cane); “*Canella alba* off. and Winter’s-Bark of Catesby ii, t. 50 ... The bark of this tree is the *Canella alba* of the shops...” Paxton (1868) explained this name as being “in allusion to the bark being rolled like cinnamon.” Canellaceae, 1 sp., called wild cinnamon, in Jamaica. (Linnaeus to Browne 19 October 1756).

Catonina (148): “*a Catone, authore antiquo de re rustica.*” Marcus Porcius Cato (the Elder, ca. 234–149 BC) was a Roman statesman and author of *De Agri Cultura* or *De Re Rustica*, who is best known for ending all his speeches in the Senate “*Delenda est Carthago!*” This name is sometimes rendered as *Caetonia*. (= *Miconia* Ruiz & Pav. (Melastomataceae)).

- Cedrela** (158): properly *Cedrella*, diminutive of L. *cedrus*, from G. *cedros* (cedar or prickly juniper); Browne noted its English name as “Barbadoes cedar”. Paxton (1868) stated that the wood has an aromatic, resinous scent like cedar. Meliaceae, 8 spp: 1 sp. in Jamaica, *C. odorata* L. (West Indian cedar). (Linnaeus to Browne 19 October 1756).
- Chiococca** (164): properly *Chionococcus*, from G. *chiōn* (snow), *coccus* (a grain, seed, and hence the kermes “berry”, the insect gall on *Quercus coccifera* L., so that *coccus* in botanical L. = a berry); Browne noted its common name as snow-berry or David’s-root. Rubiaceae, 6 spp: 2 spp in Jamaica.
- Chloroxylum** (187) **nom. rej.:** from G. *chlōros* (greenish-yellow, pale green), *xylon* (wood); Browne noted the common name as the greenheart or cogwood tree. It has “a strong greenish timber ... [used] for the cogs ... in the rolls of a sugar-mill.” (= *Ziziphus* Mill. (Rhamnaceae); Browne’s generic name is retained in *Ziziphus chloroxylon* (L.) Oliver (= *Laurus chloroxylon* L.), an endemic Jamaican tree.).
- Chytraculia** (239): a name coined by Leonard Plukenet (1642–1706) and reused by Browne, who cited his predecessor’s figure in the protologue. (= *Calyptranthes* Swartz (Myrtaceae)). It is possible that this is derived from G. *chytra* (an earthen pot), *acylos* (the acorn of *Quercus ilex* L.), but if so the correct form is *Chytracylia*.
- Cladium** (114): from G. *cladion*, a diminutive of *clados* (a branch or shoot of a tree); clearly a reference to the inflorescence, the peduncle of which “divides soon ... into a number of radii in the form of an umbrella; these are again divided, and subdivided....” Cyperaceae, 2 spp: 1 sp. in Jamaica; this is the only one of Browne’s genera represented in Ireland (*C. mariscus* (L.) Pohl).
- Coccocypselum** (144), i.e., **Coccocypselum** P.Br. [**orth. consv.**]: from G. *coccus* (see *Chiococca* above), *cypselē* (any hollow vessel, a chest, box, bee-hive), an allusion to the vase-like fruit. Rubiaceae, 20 spp: 2 spp in Jamaica.
- Coccolobis** (209), i.e., **Coccoloba** P.Br. [**nom. & orth. consv.**]: possibly from G. *coccus* (see *Chiococca* above), *lobos* (a lobe of ear or liver; hence, a pod of a leguminous plant). “The kernel is lobed at the bottom...”
- Stearn (1992) suggested a derivation from G. *coccolobis*, “ancient name for a kind of grape also called *balisca* and transferred to these plants in allusion to the fruit”; *coccolobis* [*sic*] was “a Spanish name for a kind of grape,” mentioned by Pliny (Lewis and Short 1879). Polygonaceae, 150 spp: 10 spp in Jamaica, generally called wild grapes.
- Coilotapalus** (111) **nom. rej.:** the first element is presumably G. *coelos* (hollow), but the transliteration is unconventional; the second element is obscure. Browne wrote: “The trunk and branches are hollow every where and stopped from space to space with membranous septae ... and the smaller branches, when cleared of the septa, serve as wind instruments.” (= *Cecropia* Loefl. (Moraceae)).
- Collococcus** (167): from G. *colla* (glue), *coccus* (see *Chiococca* above); Browne called this the clammy cherry. (= *Cordia* L. (Boraginaceae); Browne’s generic name was evidently adopted by Linnaeus when naming *Cordia collococca* (Linnaeus 1759a, p. 14), clammy cherry.).
- Cominia** (205): possibly from L. *comminus*, less correctly *cōminus* (hand to hand, of conflict, or nigh at hand, without the idea of contest), derived from *com-* (prefix meaning together), *manus* (a hand); Pliny used this word in the context of something determined by eyesight, and Browne referred to the characters being “very small, and not easily observed, even by the help of a glass.” (= *Allophyllus* L. (Sapindaceae)).
- Comocladia** (124): from G. *comē* (hair; metaphorically, foliage of trees), *clados* or *cladion* (see *Cladium* above); “*Caudice simplicia*

quandoque brachiato, fronde comosa pinnata ...
This tree ... rises by a simple, or simply divided slender stalk to a height of twelve to sixteen feet, and is furnished with many oval pinnated leaves about the top." Anacardiaceae, 20 spp: 4 spp in Jamaica, 3 spp endemic. (Linnaeus to Browne 19 October 1756: Ehret's transcription incorrectly has "Camocladia").

Paxton (1868) interpreted *comē* as a tuft, "the leaves being crowded at the tops of the branches." Browne's use of "*fronde comosa*" argues against Paxton.

Coreta (147): presumably from *G. corēma* (a besom, broom); Browne gave the common name as broom-weed; "it is generally used in besoms by the negroes." (= *Corchorus* L. (Tiliaceae)).

Critonia (490, 494): this appears to be an eponym, and the most likely character is Crito (*G. Crītōn*), a physician in Trajan's time, mentioned in one of Martial's poems (Lewis and Short 1879). Another Crito was a rich citizen of Athens, a disciple of Socrates.

Browne originally used the generic name *Dalea* (q.v.), but in the list of errata he altered this to *Critonia*, and he employed the latter in the index, too. Asteraceae, 33 spp (sometimes included in *Eupatorium*).

Crossopetalum (145): from *G. crossos* (a tassel), *petalon* (a leaf, whence botanical L. *petalum*, a petal); "*petalis obovatis fimbriatis patentibus*." Celastraceae, 36 spp: 1 sp. in Jamaica.

Cuphea (216): properly *Cyphea*, from *G. c̄yphos* (bent forwards, stooping, hunchbacked). Stearn (1992) stated that this was an allusion to the curved fruit or seed capsule, but Browne only referred to a recurved corolla tube, "*tubus ... ampliatus, recurvus ...*" Lythraceae, 250 spp: 2 or 3 spp in Jamaica.

Dalea (314): Browne did not state which person he was commemorating, but the most likely candidate is Samuel Dale (1659–1739), apothecary and physician, who published *Pharmacologia* (1693), a work cited in *The Civil and Natural History of Jamaica*. The name is

misprinted *Delea* on p. 490. *Dalea* (= *Critonia* P.Br. (Asteraceae), q.v.) is closely allied to *Eupatorium* and is sometimes submerged in it; as a separate genus it contains about 30 spp. *Eupatorium dalea* L. perpetuates Browne's chosen name.

Dodonaea (207): after Rembert Dodoens (1518–1585), in Latin Dodonaeus. (= *Dodonaea* Mill. (Sapindaceae)).

Ecastaphyllum (299): from *G. hecastos* (each), *phyllon* (a leaf), because "the leaves of some of the species are composed of only one leaflet" (Paxton 1868); but the correct form would be *Hecastophyllum*. Browne called this plant "The shrubby Ecastaphyllum with single leaves." (= *Dalbergia* L.f. (Fabaceae)).

Echites (182): from *G. echis* (a viper), *-ītēs* (suffix indicating a close connection). Browne referred to the plant's poisonous ("deleterious") nature, and moreover it is a twining vine, and thus viper-like; Pliny used *echūtē* for a kind of *Clematis*. Apocynaceae, 6 spp: 1 sp. in Jamaica.

Ehretia (168): "after the ingenious G. D. Ehret, who has already obliged the world with many botanical discoveries of his own, besides a great number of beautiful and accurate dissections of plants, which he has done for other people"; Browne's tribute to Georg Dionysius Ehret (1708–1770) (see Calman 1977) for drawing the plates for *The Civil and Natural History of Jamaica*. Boraginaceae, 50 spp: 1 sp. in Jamaica.

Ellisia (262): a tribute to John Ellis (ca. 1710–1776), "a gentleman who has lately published some curious observations on the plant-like marine productions of an animal nature." Ellis was a remarkable amateur naturalist whose accomplishments include a treatise on *Dionaea muscipula* Soland. ex Ellis, Venus's flytrap (Nelson 1989, 1990; Groner and Cornelius 1996). He subscribed to *The Civil and Natural History of Jamaica* and was evidently instrumental in introducing the botanical artist Georg Ehret (see *Ehretia* above) to Browne (Nelson 1995). (Linnaeus

- to Browne 19 October 1756). (= *Duranta* L. (Verbenaceae); Browne's generic name is retained in *Duranta ellisia* L.).
- Elutheria* (369): perhaps intended to suggest L. *ēlūtus* (washed out, purified), but the “*th*” cannot be true Latin. G. *eleutheriā* [*sic*] means freedom.
- Browne called this plant “musk-wood, or Alligator wood”; he commented that it smelled strongly of musk and the powdered bark was “said to be a good emetic; and is, I am informed, sometimes used among the negroes for that purpose.” (= *Guarea* L. (Meliaceae)).
- It is noteworthy that *Eluteria* was used as a generic name as early as 1738 by Linnaeus in *Hortus Cliffortianus*, but as that work predates *Species Plantarum* the name is not valid. Linnaeus reused it when he published the combination *Clutia eluteria* L. Boerner (1989) listed “*eluterius, elutus* ... ausgewaschen, ohne Saft.”
- Eriphia* (270): possibly from G. *eriphos* (a kid, young goat). (= *Besleria* L. (Gesneriaceae)).
- Erithalis*** (165): the name of a plant in Hesychius, a lexicographer of AD ca. 450, and probably the same as Pliny's *erithales* (stonecrop, cf. L. *sempervivum*; Liddell and Scott (1940) say this is *Sedum altissimum* Poir., correctly *S. sediforme* (Jacq.) Pau), itself a variant of *erithēlēēs* (very flourishing, luxuriant, used by Homer etc. for plants), from *eri-* (prefix meaning very, much), *thallō* (I sprout, grow, thrive). Rubiaceae, 10 spp: 3 spp in Jamaica, 2 spp endemic.
- Erythroxyllum*** (278): from G. *erythros* (red), *xylon* (wood); the common name is red-wood or iron-wood, and Browne described the wood as reddish brown. Erythroxyllaceae, 250 spp: 5 spp in Jamaica, 3 spp endemic. (Linnaeus to Browne 19 October 1756).
- Galactia*** (298): from G. *gala* (milk), which has stem *galact-*; “easily distinguished by its reddish flowers, milky branches, and smooth leaves.” Fabaceae, 50 spp: 6 spp in Jamaica, 2 spp endemic.
- Gerascanthus* (170): from G. *gērascō* (I grow old), *anthos* (a blossom, flower); “the flowers are very white, and grow in great numbers ... but as the *germen* grows larger, they fade and turn of a dark or dusty brown colour, and continue upon the tree until the whole fruits ... falls off.” (= *Cordia* L. (Boraginaceae); Browne's generic name is retained in *Cordia gerascanthus* L. (Linnaeus 1759b, p. 936).).
- Gigalobium*** (362) **nom. rej.:** properly *Gigantolobium*, from G. *gigas* (usually found in plural *gigantes*, giants), *lobos* (see *Coccolobis* above) or its diminutive *lobion*; “their flowers are succeeded by so many pods; the largest of the kind known; they grow commonly from four to six or seven feet in length...” (Linnaeus to Browne 19 October 1756). (= *Entada* Adans. (Fabaceae)).
- Guidonia* (249): presumably after Gui-Crescent Fagon (1638–1718), who was Professor of Botany at the Jardin du Roi, Paris, between 1671 and 1708. Browne evidently reused an earlier, pre-Linnaean name, because *Guidonia* was first coined by Plumier (1703, p. 4, tab. 24). (= *Laetia* L. (Flacourtiaceae)).
- Linnaeus (1753) had also commemorated Fagon in *Fagonia*.
- Halesia* (205): “It was called after the reverend Dr. Hales, author of the Vegetable Statics, &c, one of the greatest philosophers of the present age.” The Revd Dr Stephen Hales (1677–1761), one of the subscribers to *The Civil and Natural History of Jamaica*, was also commemorated by Ellis (see *Ellisia* above) and subsequently by Linnaeus in *Halesia* (Styracaceae); whereas Browne's generic name is now relegated to synonymy (= *Guettarda* L. (Rubiaceae)), Ellis's is retained.
- Hypelate*** (208): one of several names used by Pliny for the large butcher's-broom (*Ruscus hypoglossum* L.), from G. *hypo-* (prefix

- meaning under, somewhat, a little), *elaīē* (silver fir). Sapindaceae, 1 sp., in Jamaica.
- Ichthyomethia* (296): from G. *ichthys* (a fish), *methyō* (I am drunken with wine); Browne reported that this was used as a fish poison: “it is pounded and mixed with water ... in a few minutes after it is well mingled, you’ll see the fish ... rising to the surface, where they float as if they were dead...” In error, Brummitt (1992) attributed this name to Kuntze. (= *Piscidia* L. (Fabaceae)).
- Iresine** (358): evidently a contraction of G. *īresīōnē* (branch of olive or laurel wound round with wool and hung with fruits, borne about by singing boys at certain Athenian festivals), derived from *īros* (wool) (see Stearn 1992). Browne quoted Sloane’s polynomial *Amaranthus panicula-holosericea*, which means the amaranth with the silky-haired panicle. Amaranthaceae, 80 spp: 2 spp in Jamaica. (Linnaeus to Browne 19 October 1756).
- Iron* (179): sometimes spelled *Ireon*, but that is not how Browne published it. According to Miller (1884) *Sauvagesia erecta* is known as iron-shrub. It is probable therefore that Browne employed the vernacular English name as a generic name; he also called this plant “slender reclining Iron.” (= *Sauvagesia* L. (Ochnaceae)).
- Irsiola* (147): presumably a corruption of L. **irtiola** (sometimes spelt *irciola*), a name used by Columella (see *Alicastrum* above) and Pliny for a kind of vine grown in Umbria. This is a vine too. (= *Cissus* L. (Vitaceae)).
- Lisianthus** (157): perhaps from G. *lissos* [*sic*] (smooth), *anthos* (a blossom, flower) or its diminutive *anthion*; if so the name should be *Lissanthus* or *Lissanthium*. This name was apparently coined by Johannes Burmann (1706–1779), because Browne cited Burmann’s *Thesaurus Zeylanicus* (1737, p. 145, tab. 67). Paxton (1868) derived this from G. *lysis* (dissolution), *anthos*, “in allusion to its being a powerful cathartic,” but the correct form would be *Lysanthus*. Gentianaceae, 27 spp: 8 spp in Jamaica; they have bell-shaped flowers.
- Lygistum* (142): probably derived from G. *lygizō* (I bend or twist), related to *lygos* (chaste-tree, *Vitex agnus-castus* L., the flexible stems of which have been used since ancient times as withies); Browne described the “very branched flexile stem.” (= *Manettia* L. (Rubiaceae); Browne’s generic name is retained for a Jamaican endemic *Manettia lygistum* (L.) Sw.).
- Brummitt (1992) has this generic name erroneously as *Lygistrum*.
- Macrocnemum** (165): from G. *macros* (long), *cnēmē* (the part of the leg between the knee and the ankle; hence, used by Theophrastus for the stem between two nodes); the flower stalks are long, and in the protologue Browne wrote: “*Arborescens foliis ovatis oppositis, racemis sustentaculis longis incidentibus.*” Rubiaceae, 20 spp: 1 endemic sp. (*M. jamaicensis* L.) in Jamaica.
- Melanium* (215): presumably from G. neuter diminutive *melanion* of *melas* (black), but there is no mention of black in the protologue. (= *Cuphea* P.Br. (Lythraceae); Browne’s generic name is retained in *Cuphea melanium* (L.) Steud. (= *Lythrum melanium* L.), a very rare species in Jamaica, not recently reported (Adams 1972).).
- Melicoccus** (210): from G. *meli* (honey), *coccus* (see *Chiococca* above); Browne merely stated that the fruit was “very mellow.” Sapindaceae, 2 spp: 1 sp. in Jamaica.
- Mesosphaerum* (257): from G. *mesos* (middle, in the middle), *sphaera* (a ball, sphere); possibly a reference to the seed: “*Duo subcompressa, oblongo-quadrata, fulca longitudinali per medium ducta, notata.*” (= *Hyptis* Jacq. (Lamiaceae)).
- Metopium** (177): from G. *metōpion* (a forehead; hence, a bandage for the forehead and, in Dioscorides, an aromatic Egyptian ointment), derived from *meta-* (prefix meaning after, behind), *ōps* (an eye, face). According to

- Browne, this plant was “well known for its medicinal gum, to which the very hogs are said to have recourse when wounded in the woods.” The common name was hog-gum tree. Anacardiaceae, 3 spp: *M. brownei* (Jacq.) Urb. is the only species in Jamaica and commemorates Browne, although the epithet was originally spelled “brownii”.
- Moniera* B.Juss. ex P.Br. (269): “The name of *Moniera* was given to this plant by Mons. Bernard de Jussieu, who raised it in the garden at Paris. Doctor Schlosser was kind enough to let me examine a specimen of it, with which he was favoured, among other curious productions, by that worthy gentleman; and observing the plants to be the same, I have, in deference to the author, continued the appellation he was pleased to give it.” (Linnaeus to Browne 19 October 1756). (= *Bacopa* Aubl. (Scrophulariaceae)).
- Myrstiphylum* (152): perhaps from *G. myristicos* (fragrant, e.g., of a nut, or, according to Stearn (1992), fit for anointing; cf. *Myristica*, nutmeg), *phyllon* (a leaf); if this is so, the correct form would be *Myristicophyllum*. Browne’s description of this shrub with “shining leaves” was brief: “*Minus fruticosum, foliis ovato-acuminatis nitidis subrigidis oppositis.*” (= *Psychotria* L. (Rubiaceae); Browne’s generic name is retained in *Psychotria myrstiphylum* Sw., a Jamaican endemic.).
- Neanthe* (289): from *G. neos* (young, youthful, fresh), *anthos* (a blossom, flower); the identity of this plant is uncertain.
- Omphalandria* (334): from *G. omphalos* (a navel), *anēr* (a man, as opposed to a woman), which has stem *andr-*; an allusion to the anthers: “There are no filaments ... but the antherae are lodged in so many grooves, disposed longitudinally and at equal distances from each other, in the side of a roundish naval [*sic*] in the centre of the cup.” (Linnaeus to Browne 19 October 1756). (= *Omphalea* L. (Euphorbiaceae)).
- Parsonsia* (199): after Dr James Parsons (1705–1770), who was educated in Dublin and, like Browne, studied medicine in Paris and graduated at Rheims (1736). Browne explicitly dedicated the genus to “Dr. Parsons, who has published a treatise on seeds of vegetables, and many other curious remarks on different parts of natural history.” It is just possible that Browne and Parsons were fellow students in Paris. Browne graduated at Rheims in 1742. (= *Cuphea* P.Br. (Lythraceae); apparently Browne’s generic name is retained in *C. parsonsia* (L.) Steud. (= *Lythrum parsonsia* L.)).
- After Linnaeus had relegated Browne’s *Parsonsia*, Robert Brown (1773–1858) (1810, pp. 465–466) decided to mark Parsons’ contribution to botanical science and named another genus after him: “Dixi in memoriam JACOBI PARSONS, M.D., auctoris operis incompleti, dicti ‘The Microscopical Theatre of Seeds,’ aliarumque dissertationum Botanici argumenti. *Parsonsia Browne*, a Linneo ad *Lythrum* relata, *Cupheae* species est.” *Parsonia* R.Br. belongs in Apocynaceae and contains about 120 species (Mabberley 1987).
- Petesia* (143): obscure; perhaps an eponym, but we have not identified any likely person with the name Petes. (= *Rondeletia* L. (Rubiaceae)).
- Phaeolypea* (269): perhaps from *G. phaeos* (grey), *lypē* (pain, grief), but, if so, *Phaeolype* would be correct. Browne stated: “grows chiefly in the sloughs, where the mud has been worked up by the different carriages.” (= *Stenodia* L. (Scrophulariaceae)).
- Pharus* (344): possibly from *G. pharos*, a rare word meaning a plough or ploughing; Browne called these “Wild Oats”; Poaceae, 8 spp: 3 spp in Jamaica. (Linnaeus to Browne 19 October 1756).
- Portlandia* (164): after the Duchess of Portland, Margaret Cavendish Bentinck (1715–1785), who was “a great lover of Botany, and well acquainted with the English plants.” The duchess was Georg Ehret’s patron (see *Ehretia*



Figure 2. Hand-coloured engraving of *Portlandia* from the second issue of *The Civil and Natural History of Jamaica* (1789), based on original sketches by Georg Ehret. Photo courtesy of Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation.

above). Rubiaceae, 18 spp: 6 endemic spp in Jamaica.

Prockia P.Br. in Linnaeus (1759b, pp. 1068, 1074, 1372): after Christian Lebrecht Baron von Prock, who was governor-general of the Danish island of St Croix between 25 February 1755 and 8 August 1766, during which time Browne lived there. Flacourtiaceae, 2 spp: West Indies and Venezuela. This generic name was published by Linnaeus, who acknowledged: “*authore Cl. Brownio nuper in literis ex America.*” The original, manuscript description, prepared by Browne and sent from St Croix to Linnaeus in a letter dated 26 June 1757, read:

Prockia frutescens ramulis teretibus, foliis cordatis serratis, floribus terminalibus
Periant. calix triphyllus, foliolis ovatis

acuminatis, in Junioribus conniventibus, etate reflectentibus

Corolla nulla. Stam. filamenta, plurima, erecto patentia, calice longiora, antherae rotundo cordatae. pist. germen subrotundum sub-quinque lobum, Stylus simplex longitudine Stam. Stigma obtusiusculum sub-lobatum.

peric^d. Drupa videtur vel bacca, Nauco quinque loculari polyspermo, referto.
N.B. ad Incisuras 2 calicis, lacinulae totidem lineares aliquando[que] sed raro reperiuntur tuncque calix pentaphyllus inequalis dici potest.

Many of Browne’s phrases were repeated by Linnaeus in the protologue, showing that Browne and not Linnaeus (as generally stated) is the author. (Browne to J. Banks 22 November 1787).

Psychotrophum (160, 500): from G. *ps̄ȳchotrophon*, a name used by Dioscorides for a plant (also called *cestron*) which thrives in cold, said to be betony (see Stearn 1992), derived from *ps̄ȳchos* (cold, winter-time), *trephō* (*I make to grow or increase, I bring up, rear*).

Oddly, the adjective *ps̄ȳchotrophos* means “sustaining life or soul,” with the first element derived not from *ps̄ȳchos* (cold) but from *ps̄ȳchē* (*life, soul*).

Browne stated that the seeds “are pretty much like those of coffee.” In the index this name is rendered *Psichotrophum*. (= *Psychotria* L. (Rubiaceae)).

Pterota (146): from G. *pterōtos* (feathered, winged), derived from *pteron* (a feather, a bird’s wing; hence, anything like wings or feathers); an allusion to the pinnate (feather-like) leaves. (= *Zanthoxylum* L. (Rutaceae)).

Pumilea (188): from L. *pumilus* (dwarfish, diminutive); an allusion to the size of the plant, which “never rises more than two or three inches above the root.” (= *Turnera* L. (Turneraceae)).

Sapium (338) **nom. rej.**: apparently from L. *sappium*, an alternative version of *sapīnus* (a fir or pine); “This tree ... yields a great quantity of resin ... which generally serves for the boiling-house lamps ... and is much used for

- bird-lime...” (= *Sapium* Jacq. (Euphorbiaceae), 100 spp: 3 spp, in Jamaica, 2 spp endemic).
- Sarcomphalus* (179): from *G. sarx* (flesh), which has stem *sarc-*, *omphalos* (a navel); an allusion to the fleshy fruit: “*Bacca Drupa-ve, subrotunda bilocularis.*” (= *Ziziphus* Mill. (Rhamnaceae); Browne’s name is perpetuated in *Ziziphus sarcomphalus* (L.) M. C. Johnston, an endemic Jamaican shrub.).
- Sciadophyllum* (190): correctly *Sciadophyllum*, from *G. scias* (a canopy, arbour; hence an umbel), which has stem *sciad-*, *phyllon* (a leaf); because the leaves “are fastened in an umbellated form to the top of so many common supporters ... while the others spread themselves like an umbrella.” (= *Schefflera* J. R. Forst. & G. Forst. (Araliaceae); Browne’s generic name is retained in *Schefflera sciadophyllum* (Sw.) Harms (= *Aralia sciadophyllum* Sw.), an endemic species in Jamaica.).
- Sechium* (355): Stearn (1992) stated that this is derived from the West Indian name for the plant. Boerner (1989) suggested that it was derived from *G. “sykios”* (i.e., *sy̅cios*), but we can find no such word. However, *sy̅con* = a fig; *sy̅cis* = a slip or cutting from a fig-tree.
- Browne gave the local Jamaican name as “Chocho Vine”, which does not seem to bear any relationship to *Sechium*; Cucurbitaceae, 6 spp: 1 sp. (*S. edule* (Jacq.) Sw.) in Jamaica; it has edible fruits (chocho, Madeira marrow, vegetable pear), although Browne’s comment was: “The fruit is sometimes boiled, and served up at table by way of green, ... but it is too insipid to be much liked.”
- Sicelium* (144): possibly related to *G. Siceliā* (Sicily), but the allusion is obscure. (= *Coccocypselum* P.Br. (Rubiaceae)).
- Spathe* (187): from *G. spathē* (any broad blade, of wood or metal; hence, the stem of a palm-frond, spathe of a flower.) (Linnaeus to Browne 19 October 1756). (= *Spathelia* L. (Rutaceae)).
- Stemodiakra* (261): the first element is presumably from *G. stēmōn* (warp, thread; hence, in botanical L., a stamen), but it should be *Stemono-*; if the rest of the name is intended to mean two at the tip, from *di-* (suffix meaning two-, twice- double-), *acros* (at the furthest point or end), its formation is barbarous! “*Stamina. Filamenta quatuor subaequalia, bibrachiata, longitudine tubi corollae, antheris geminis instructa; singula scilicet, singulo brachio filamenti.*” (Linnaeus to Browne 19 October 1756). (= *Stemodia* L. (Scrophulariaceae)).
- Stizolobium* (290): from *G. stizō* (I tattoo), *lobos* or *lobion* (see *Gigalobium* above); “*Legumen longum ... hirtis pungentibus obsitum...*” (= *Mucuna* Adans. (Fabaceae)).
- Struchium* (312): possibly a diminutive of *G. strychnos* or *strychnon* (used for several members of Solanaceae, including *Solanum nigrum* L., black nightshade), but, if so, *Strychnium* would be correct. Asteraceae, 1 sp. (*S. sparganophora* (L.) Kuntze) in Jamaica. (Linnaeus to Browne 19 October 1756).
- Suzygium* (240): properly *Syzygium*, from neuter of *G. syzygios*, a poetic form of *syzygos* (yoked together, paired, united), derived from *sy[n]-* (prefix meaning with, together), *zygon* or *zygos* (a yoke); Browne gave the name in English as “The shrubby Suzygium, with coupled leaves and branches.” (= *Calyptranthes* Sw. (Myrtaceae); Browne’s generic name is perpetuated in *Calyptranthes suzygium* (L.) Sw. (= *Myrtus suzygium* L.).).
- Teramnus* (290): from *G. teramnus* (softened by boiling); the synonymous word *teramōn* was used of pulse by Theophrastus. Fabaceae, 8 spp: 3 spp in Jamaica.
- Terebinthus* (345): from *G. terebinthos* (terebinth or turpentine tree, *Pistacia terebinthus* L.); the “birch or turpentine tree” was named *Terebinthus major Betulae cortice* by Sloane (1696). (= *Pistacia* L. (Anacardiaceae)).
- Thamnia* (245): from *G. thamnos* (a bush, shrub) or its diminutive *thamnion*; Browne called this “The shrubby Thamnia.” (= *Laetia* Loeff. ex L. (Flacourtiaceae) **nom. cons.**; Browne’s

generic name is perpetuated in *Laetia thamnina* L.).

Trichilia (278) **nom. & typ. consv.:** from G. *trichīlos* (three-lipped), derived from *tri-* (prefix meaning three-, thrice-, treble-), *dīlos* (a lip); “*Pericarpium. Capsula subrotunda, obtuse triloba, trilocularis, trivalvis, dehiscens.*” Meliaceae, 86 spp: 5 spp in Jamaica.

Trichogamila (218): the first element is from G. *thrix*, often used in the plural *triches* (hair); the second may relate to G. *gamēlios* (of or for a wedding, bridal), derived from *gamos* (a wedding); the identity of this plant is uncertain.

Trixis (312): perhaps from *trixos*, which is an Ionic form of *trissos* (threefold) used by the historian Herodotus (ca. 480–ca. 425 BC), alluding to the deeply three-lobed florets; “*Corullulae uniformes, aequales, hermaphroditae: propria monopetala tubulata, in tres lacinae profunde secta.*” Paxton (1868) suggested that it was so named “on account of its triangular capsule, with three cells.” Asteraceae, 60 spp: 1 sp. in Jamaica.

Trophis (357): presumably from G. *trophē* (nourishment, food), but *trophis* itself means well-fed, stout, large; “The leaves and tops of this tree make an agreeable wholesome fodder for all sorts of cattle ... The berries are ... of an agreeable pleasant flavour.” Moraceae, 11 spp: 1 sp. in Jamaica. (Linnaeus to Browne 19 October 1756).

Vandellia P.Br. in Linnaeus (1767a, pp. 384, 422; 1767b, pp. 12–13): apparently commemorating Dr Domingos Vandelli (1735–1816), an Italian botanist and physician who, having moved to Portugal in 1764–1765, formed successively the botanic gardens at Ajuda, Coimbra and Lisbon. He was a correspondent of Linnaeus. Vandelli’s link with Patrick Browne is obscure. Linnaeus (1767a, 1767b) acknowledged that Browne was author of this name, but there is no trace in Browne’s correspondence of an original, manuscript description. Browne referred to *Vandellia* in his letter to Banks

dated 22 November 1787. (= *Lindernia* All. (Scrophulariaceae)).

Varronia (172): “*Ab antiquo illo authore qui de re rustica scripsit, nomen desumitur.*” Marcus Terentius Varro (116–27 BC) was a Roman author, “the greatest critic and grammarian of the Augustan age,” who not only was responsible for transferring several hundred Greek words into the Latin language (Stearn 1973, p. 16), but also wrote on agriculture; his systematic treatise, *De Re Rustica*, is a primary source on agriculture in his time (see Morton 1981, p. 78) (= *Cordia* L. (Boraginaceae)).

Vimen (369): from L. *vīmen* (a pliant twig, switch, withy, osier); Browne noted that this was a vigorous climber, a plant with flexible stems. (= *Hyperbaena* Benth. (Menispermaceae)).

Volkameria (214): commemorating Johann Georg Volckamer (1662–1744) of Nürnberg, author of *Flora Noribergensis* (1718): “We have called this tree by the name of *Volkameria*, to perpetuate the memory of that famous botanist...” Browne chose to reclassify plants placed by Linnaeus in a different genus named *Volkameria*, and thus he reused the name. This plant was identified by Browne as “*Tinus occidentalis*” (fide Linnaean index in Browne 1789). (Linnaeus to Browne 19 October 1756). (= *Clethra* L. (Clethraceae)).

Windmannia (212) **nom. rej.:** there are two possible origins of this name; Browne is not explicit in his book about the person honoured.

The first, and most probable, is Johann Wilhelm Widmann (1690–1743), a physician who was one of Ehret’s earliest patrons (see *Ehretia* above). Through the good offices of Beurer (see *Bourreria* above), Widmann purchased a collection of almost 600 botanical paintings, entitled *Herbarium vivum pictum*, from Ehret. Whereas in November 1739 Linnaeus enquired of Ehret: “... can you tell me who is a certain Dr. Widmann?”, Widmann was well-known to English naturalists, including Peter Collinson, and

was proposed for a fellowship of the Royal Society. If this name does commemorate Widmann, the orthography is incorrect.

While Browne's *Windmannia* is deemed to be synonymous with *Weinmannia* of Linnaeus, there is no evidence that Browne was honouring the same person, Johann Wilhelm Weinmann (1683–1741) of Regensburg (Ratisbon). Moreover, there is no clear orthographic connection between the surname Weinmann and the generic name *Windmannia*. Weinmann was a wealthy apothecary and patron of botanical artists, who, like Widmann, was connected with Ehret. However, Weinmann's relationship with Ehret was not as amicable as Widmann's was, and it ended about 1729 when Weinmann alleged that the artist had not kept his contract to paint portraits of plants for him. Calman (1977, p. 16) noted that in 1739 Ehret sought recompense from Weinmann but lost his case.

When it is remembered that in *The Civil and Natural History of Jamaica* Browne honoured Ehret (*Ehretia*) as well as his friend Johann Ambrosius Beurer (*Bourreria*) and his patrons the Duchess of Portland (*Portlandia*) and John Ellis (*Ellisia*), it would be strange for Browne also to honour someone who had not treated Ehret so well. (Linnaeus to Browne 19 October 1756). (= *Weinmannia* L. (Cunoniaceae)).

Xylocyste (372): from G. *xylon* (wood), *cystis* (a bladder); it must be assumed that this is a reference to the fruit, although Browne does not state that it is woody; the identity of the plant is uncertain.

Xylopicrum (250) **nom. rej.**: from G. *xylon* (wood), *picros* (sharp, pungent, bitter), though *Picroxylum* would be more normal; Plukenet had coined the name *Xylopicron*, and Browne adopted it for plants known as bitterwoods; he stated that the "wood, bark, and berries, have an agreeable bitter taste, not unlike that of orange-seed..." (Linnaeus

to Browne 19 October 1756). (= *Xylophia* L. (Annonaceae)).

Zeugites (341) **nom. consv.**: G. for yoked in pairs, from *zeugos* (a yoke of beasts; hence, a pair or couple of any things); *calamos zeugitēs* was used by Theophrastus for a reed from which were made the mouthpieces of the double flutes (*zeugeē*); Poaceae, 10 spp: 1 sp. in Jamaica.

Zoophthalmum (295): from G. *zōon* (a living being, animal), *ophthalmos* (an eye); the common name is ox-eye bean. Dioscorides used *zōōphthalmon* as a name for *aižōon* (probably *Sempervivum* sp.). (= *Mucuna* Adans. (Fabaceae)).

Zygia (279) **nom. rej.**: a name used by Theophrastus and Pliny for field maple (*Acer campestre* L.) (Liddell and Scott 1940) or hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus* L.) (Lewis and Short 1879), derived from G. *zygios* (of or for the yoke); known as hoop-wood, because the wood "is pretty tough, and sometimes cut for hoops." (Linnaeus to Browne 19 October 1756). (= *Pithecellobium* Mart. (Fabaceae)).

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