



Were more plant genera *really* named for nymphs than women who actually lived?

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This project began with tweets – celebrating the women for whom plant genera are named, but seeking information on why there appeared to be so few plant genera named for women.

We used Burkhardt (2018, 2022) and Mari Mut (2017-2021) to compile a list of eponymic generic names, verified each was indeed named for a woman and categorised the person-names.

Where it started - where it went:

- ❖ Only 40 such women had Wikidata entries, now more than 700 women are linked to genera named for them
- ❖ Of the several thousand genera named for people fewer than 10% are named for women

We used Wikidata to create linked open data for both plant genera and the women for whom they have been named.

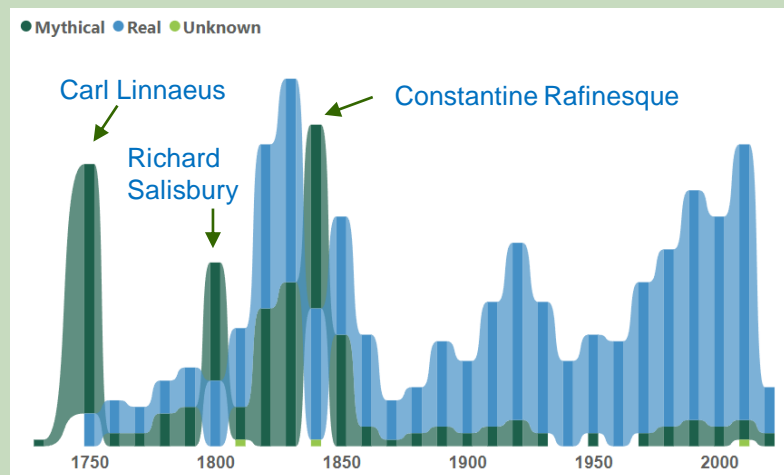
A statement was added to each appropriate Wikidata item **linking the genus to the woman using the “named after” property**. This method **required the creation and enrichment of multiple Wikidata items** for women and genera. We also added links in the women’s Wikidata items to other databases including those maintained by herbaria, museums, libraries, genealogical, history and botanical institutions.

By **adding and enriching Wikidata**, our research and the women it celebrates has been made visible, encouraging the **ongoing enrichment and reuse of these data**.

Linnaeus (1751) had rules for naming genera – such names were not given lightly, but *could* commemorate mythical figures, kings or botanists.....

So far we have found:

- ❖ a shift from naming genera for mythical women ca. 1850
- ❖ some authors coined many names based on mythical women - some of whom are not known in classical mythology - are they made up?
- ❖ an emerging trend to name genera for women who have contributed to the science of botany
- ❖ modern trend of explaining etymology contributes to celebration of diversity in botany



Plant genera named for women by decade



References: Linnaeus C (1751) [Philosophia Botanica](#); Burkhardt L (2018, 2022) [Verzeichnis eponymischer Pflanzennamen](#); Marri Mut JA (2017-2021) [Plant genera named after people \(1753-1853\)](#)



We are only just beginning our analyses! What are **YOUR** questions for these data?
#eponymatrices #WomenPlantGenera



Celebrating Women Through Naming