

Leonhard Fuchs Biography

Leonhard Fuchs

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Biography

Leonhard Fuchs (1501-1566) compiled the first significant glossary of botanical terms, which contributed to the development of modern botany. The plant genus Fuchsia was named for him.

Leonhard Fuchs was born on January 17, 1501, in Wemding, Bavaria. He was trained as a physician and had a particular interest in natural history. Fuchs served as a professor of medicine at Tübingen University from 1535-1566. He was especially interested in the medicinal properties of plants. In 1542, Fuchs published a plant manual titled *Historia stirpium*, or *History of Plants*. Also known by the title of *Concerning the Description of Plants*, this publication was illustrated with woodcuts and admired for its precise detail and attention to scholarship. The book was an important milestone in the developing science of natural history.

The plant genus Fuchsia was named after Fuchs in 1703 because he was the first to describe it. This genus comprised a group of shrubs that he described in his book. Later, the color of the flower on these shrubs, a sort of blue/red, also came to be referred to as Fuchsia.

Fuchs also published *Mendendi Methodus* in 1541. As a physician he treated patients with success who suffered from plague.