

# The name's Jamesbondia—new group of Caribbean plants named after James Bond

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Jamesbondia

A new subgenus of plants has officially been called Jamesbondia after the notable American ornithologist James Bond, whose name Ian Fleming is known to have used for his eponymous spy series.

An article published in *Plant Biosystems* formally proposes the existence of a new subgenus of [plants](#), Jamesbondia, an infrageneric group of the

Neotropical flowering genus known as *Alternanthera*. It has officially been called *Jamesbondia* after the notable American [ornithologist](#) James Bond, whose name Ian Fleming is known to have used for his eponymous spy series.

The four *Jamesbondia* plant species are mostly found in Central America and the Caribbean Islands. Authors I. Sánchez-del Pino and D. Iamónico have built on the research of J.M. Mears, who identified a group of Caribbean plant species as "*Jamesbondia*" from 1980 to 1982 in unpublished annotations on *Alternanthera* specimens. Molecular phylogenetic analyses and observations of the flower morphology justify the official separate naming of this group.

The name *Jamesbondia* has never previously been validly published. Respecting the annotations of Mears, the authors named the subgenus in honour of the American ornithologist. Sánchez-del Pino and Iamónico suspect that Mears' choice of name relates to the geographic distribution of the species: "'*Jamesbondia* is clearly dedicated to the ornithologist James Bond (1900–1989), who focused his research on birds in the same Caribbean areas that are the primary home of the four putative [species](#) of subgenus *Jamesbondia*."

Ian Fleming, a keen bird watcher, adopted the name for his series of [spy](#) novels about a fictional British Secret Service and is quoted as saying, "It struck me that this brief, unromantic, Anglo-Saxon and yet very masculine name was just what I needed, and so a second James Bond was born."

**More information:** I. Sánchez-del Pino et al. , a new subgenus of (*Gomphrenoideae*, *Amaranthaceae*) from Central America and the Caribbean Islands , *Plant Biosystems* (2014). [DOI: 10.1080/11263504.2014.941034](#)

Provided by Taylor & Francis

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