

Stevia

About 240 species, including:

Stevia (/ˈstiːvi/, ˈstɪvi/)^{[2][3][4][5]} is a genus of about 240 species of herbs and shrubs in the family Asteraceae, native to subtropical and tropical regions from western North America to South America.

The species *Stevia rebaudiana* is widely grown for the sweet compounds (steviol glycosides) extracted from its leaves, sold as a sugar substitute under the generic name stevia and several trade names.^[6]

The genus *Stevia* consists of 240^[7] species of plants native to South America, Central America, and Mexico, with several species found as far north as Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas.^[8] Human use of the sweet species *S. rebaudiana* originated in South America.^[9]

The genus was named for Spanish botanist and physician Petrus Jacobus Stevus (Pedro Jaime Esteve 1500–1556), a professor of botany at the University of Valencia.^[10]

