

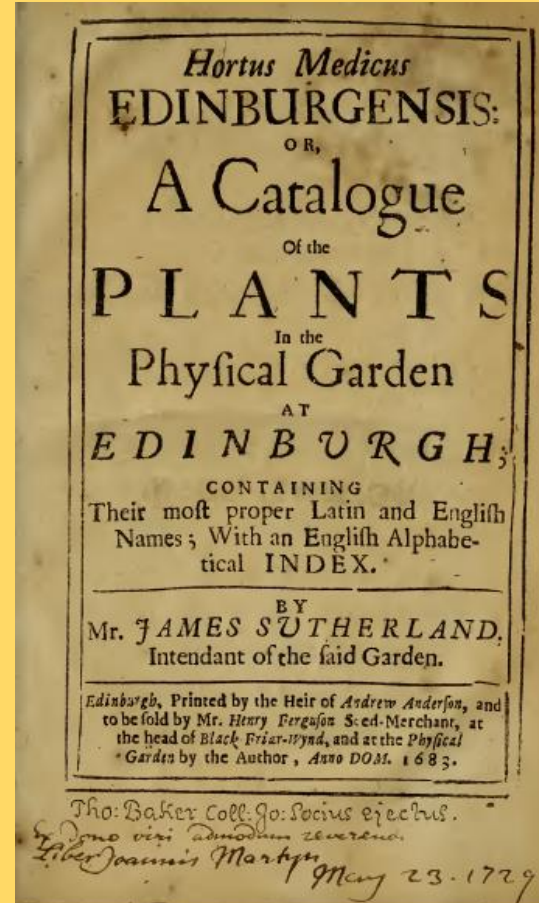


# Scotland's heritage of naturalised medicinal plants

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## • Abstract

- When BSBI's *New Atlas of the British and Irish Flora* was published in 2002, introduced plants were subdivided into archaeophytes and neophytes for Britain as a whole, but British natives that were considered to be introductions in Scotland were not subdivided. As a result the specifically Scottish archaeophyte heritage has been neglected. Taken together, Sutherland's *Hortus Medicus Edinburgensis* 1683 and Sibbald's *Scotia Illustrata* 1684 provide a baseline from which to investigate the history of many species now considered to be naturalised introductions in Scotland. This has enabled them to be divided between archaeophytes and neophytes giving perspective to their heritage, particularly that of former medicinal plants.
- *British & Irish Botany* 3(1):74-89, 2021



## • Example

- Comfrey *Symphytum officinale* is native in England and was used medicinally. It is not native in Scotland and it seems that *S. tuberosum* was introduced to use instead
- James Sutherland includes *S. tuberosum* in his 1683 catalogue for the Edinburgh Physic Garden. John Hope observed the plant naturalised nearby by the Water of Leith in 1765. It seems inescapable that the species was passed around soon after Sibbald or Sutherland introduced it and became widely naturalised.