

Building Block Species Report

Tolumnia × *pulchella* (Hook.) Raf., Fl. Tellur. 2: 101 (1837).

The Beautiful Tolumnia

Synonyms

- *Oncidium* × *pulchellum* Hook., Bot. Mag. 54: t. 2773 (1827).
- *Oncidium* × *berenyce* Rchb.f., Bot. Zeitung (Berlin) 20: 215 (1862).
- *Oncidium* × *jamaicense* Moir & A.D.Hawkes, Phytologia 15: 9 (1967).
- *Oncidium* × *sanctae-anae* Moir & A.D.Hawkes, Phytologia 15: 11 (1967).
- *Oncidium* × *withneranum* Moir, Phytologia 15: 12 (1967).
- *Oncidium* × *hartii* Moir, Phytologia 17: 433 (1968).
- *Oncidium* × *apiculatum* Moir, Phytologia 19: 53 (1969).
- *Oncidium* × *concovum* Moir, Phytologia 19: 53 (1969).
- *Oncidium* × *cuneilabium* Moir, Phytologia 19: 53 (1969).
- *Oncidium* × *pulchellum* f. *apiculatum* (Moir) Withner, Orchid Digest 44: 91 (1980).
- *Oncidium* × *pulchellum* f. *berenyce* (Rchb.f.) Withner, Orchid Digest 44: 91 (1980).
- *Oncidium* × *pulchellum* f. *concovum* (Moir) Withner, Orchid Digest 44: 91 (1980).
- *Oncidium* × *pulchellum* f. *cuneilabium* (Moir) Withner, Orchid Digest 44: 91 (1980).
- *Oncidium* × *pulchellum* f. *hartii* (Moir) Withner, Orchid Digest 44: 91 (1980).
- *Oncidium* × *pulchellum* f. *jamaicense* (Moir & A.D.Hawkes) Withner, Orchid Digest 44: 91 (1980).
- *Oncidium* × *pulchellum* f. *sanctae-anae* (Moir & A.D.Hawkes) Withner, Orchid Digest 44: 91 (1980).
- *Oncidium* × *pulchellum* f. *withneranum* (Moir) Withner, Orchid Digest 44: 91 (1980).
- *Oncidium* × *pulchellum* subsp. *concovum* (Moir) Braem, Orchidee (Hamburg) 34: 54 (1983).
- *Tolumnia* × *apiculata* (Moir) Braem, Orchidee (Hamburg) 37: 58 (1986).
- *Tolumnia* × *berenyce* (Rchb.f.) Braem, Orchidee (Hamburg) 37: 58 (1986).
- *Tolumnia* × *concava* (Moir) Braem, Orchidee (Hamburg) 37: 58 (1986).
- *Tolumnia* × *cuneilabia* (Moir) Braem, Orchidee (Hamburg) 37: 58 (1986).

According to Saulea and Hamilton, *Tolumnia x pulchella* is the natural hybrid between *Tolumnia gutata* and *Tolumnia hamiltonii*, as you see above the large list of synonyms can tell us about the taxonym confusion throughout time. They self-pollinate *Tolumnia guttata* and *Tolumnia hamiltonii* finding out the progenies are always morphologically similar to the parents without any evidence of hybridization. They concluded that the orchid named as *Tolumnia pulchella* is really a natural hybrid known as hybrid swarm. When it has self-pollinated, the offspring resulted in a variation similar to that found in the natural population.

Going back to the great breeder, Goodale Moir, he considered the flowers of *Tolumnia pulchella* are the largest of all Variegata, pale pink with a broad-shouldered base as wide across as the full-rounded lower lobe. The crest is like carved ivory, with blunt ends to parts that are simple and few. The petals are good sized and marked with darker shades of dusty pink.

Looking at OrchidWiz X9.1 awarded Tolumnias, *Tolumnia pulchella* is second in the list of progenies, first generation and awards, 119 and 27 respectively, just below the great *Tolu. Golden Sunset*.

About breeding, *Tolumnia pulchella* can impart a full, round lip, pink to red colors, good arrangement and shingling, also a good flower count.

Tolu. Catherine Wilson (*Tolu. triqueta* x *Tolu. pulchella*), show the dominant round shape of *Tolu. pulchella* and enhance the deep red color.



Tolu. Catherine Wilson 'Passionate Red'

Photo: Lynn O' Shaughnessys

Another impressive cross is *Tolu. Rainbow* (*Tolu. pulchella* x *Tolu. Tiny Tim*), where *Tolu. pulchella* impart its dominant shape and at the same time increase the number of flowers.

Tolumnia Rainbow 'Peppermint Sprinkles'
AM/AOS (81 points)

Photo: Jason R. Mills



Moir bred *Tolu*. Phyllis Hertfield from *Tolu. pulchella* and a bit of *Tolu. triqueta* and *Tolu. henekenii*. It was never awarded but is as important in its own way as was *Tolu*. Golden Sunset. Moir also bred *Rodrumnia* Beauty Spots (*Tolu. pulchella* x *Rodriguezia* Burgundi), a novelty hybrid, which he then crossed with *Tolu*. Phyllis Hertfield to give *Rrm*. Phyllis. Richella bred extensively with *Tolu*. Phyllis Hertfield and *Rrm* Phyllis to produce a wide range of hybrids crucial for later hybridizing. (Cole 2012).

References

- Cole R. 2012. Equitans today. *Orchids*. Vol 81 (7): 404.
- Moir G. and Moir M. 1980. Breeding Variegata Oncidiums
- Orchidwiz Encyclopedia X9.1
- Ruben P. Sauleda and Claude W. Hamilton. 2019. *Tolumnia* x *pulchella* (Hooker) Rafinesque (Orchidaceae) is Established as the Proper Name for a Jamaican Hybrid Swarm (Syngameon) and a New Species, One of The Parents of the Hybrid swarm, *Tolumnia hamiltonii* Sauleda is described. *New World Orchidaceae – Nomenclatural Notes* Nomenclatural Note – Issue No. 53
- www.orchidspecies.com.
- www.wcsp.science.kew.org