

Genus *Tolumnia*

Tolumnia pulchella is type species of the genus *Tolumnia*

Tolumnias contains numerous species, many of which are attractive miniatures of relatively easy cultures. Several of them, such as *Tolumnia variegata*, are quite widespread and variable in form and color, whereas others are restricted to single islands or portions of the larger islands. (Chase 2012).

The word equitant comes from Latin for riding a horse and that describes how the leaves are arranged in pairs, overlapping or straddling one another at the base. (Caldwell 2012).

They grow epiphytically, possessing only a rudimentary pseudobulb with overlapping leaves. Leaves are usually triquetrous (three-sided) and V-shaped. This shape is a water-conserving adaptation because leaf area exposed to sun and wind is substantially reduced. (Peters 1989).

The dorsal sepal is nearly always concave, dark blunt pointed. The lateral sepals are joined and are close, either to the peduncle or to the labellum. Dorsal and lateral sepals are narrow; petals always larger than sepals and are darker and cuneate (wedge-shaped) at the base. The lip is pandurate with a basal portion usually cordate and an isthmus before the lower lobe, quite variable in width and depth. There are lateral lobes to the base, or the base is entirely a broad-shouldered part. The lower lobe is either reniform or cordate. On the base is the crest usually consisting of six parts in two arrangement of three, of different shape, texture, and a prominence. Between the petals is the column containing the pollen and cap and stigmatic cavity. On the edge of this cavity are the attractive parts, called wings on the column. (Moir 1980).



Tolumnia pulchella
Photo by Larry Livingston

| Names | Progeny F1/Total | FCC | AM | HCC | JC | AD | AQ | CCE | CCM | CHM | CBR | CBM | Total | Strengthen | Weakness |
|------------------------|------------------|-----|----|-----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|---|---|
| Tolumnia Golden Sunset | 139/991 | | 20 | 31 | 1 | | | 1 | 5 | | | | 58 | | |
| *Tolumnia pulchella | 118/1868 | 1 | 9 | 9 | 1 | | 1 | | 2 | | | | 23 | Large flowers, plant size and shape. Broad-shouldered base to the lip | |
| *Tolumnia triquetra | 105/1923 | | 5 | 3 | | | | | 3 | | | | 11 | Use to shorten peduncles, and have more closely placed flowers and compact plants | Pod take over 300 days to mature |
| *Tolumnia urophylla | 13/1578 | | | 1 | | | | 1 | 2 | | | | 4 | 84 chromosome, great vigor, strong yellow color. | Long spike and relatively few flowers |
| Tolumnia Robsan | 62/292 | | 8 | 10 | | | | | | | | | 18 | Good source of yellow | |
| *Tolumnia guianensis | 60/1554 | | 3 | 4 | | | | | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 12 | | |
| Tolumnia Sniffen | 47/279 | 1 | 4 | 3 | | | 1 | | | | | | 9 | | |
| Tolumnia Irene Gleason | 46/421 | | 3 | 6 | | | | | 2 | | | | 11 | | |
| *Tolumnia henekenii | 45/1456 | | 1 | 1 | | | | | 5 | | | | 7 | Source for unusually shaped flowers and red coloring | Fewer and more spaced flowers in hybrids. |

References

- Caldwell K. 2012. Little Jewels. Orchids. Vol (81) 7. 416.
- Chase M. W. 1992. The Oncidium Alliance of the Caribbean. American Orchid Society Bulletin. Vol. 61(10) 996
- Peters B. 1989. Equitant Oncidiums of Primary Importance. American Orchid Society Bulletin. Vol. 58 (2) 114.