Genus Tolumnia

Previously known as equitant oncidiums, the genus Tolumnia was segregated from Oncidiums in 1986 by Guido Braem. Tolumnias are native to the Caribbean Basin, in particular the Greater Antilles. Several species occur in Florida, Mexico and Central America. Most Tolumnias are small twig epiphytes. The pseudobulbs are small or absent and are covered by leaves in a fan like arrangement. The leaf blades are recurved, lanceolate and laterally flattened and the leaf margins are often serrulate. Most species exhibit a compact growth habit along a rhizome although a few produce elongated rhizomes with more rambling growth. The 12 to 18 inch inflorescences arise from the leaf bases are bear colorful, showy flowers. The sepals and petals are spatulate and clawed, The lip is large, often notched. The callus is prominent, the column has prominent wings flanking the stigma. The fruits are ellipsoid capsules. The seeds have prominent extensions of the testa, an adaptation for wind dispersal.

Pronounced: toh-LUM-nee-ah Probably for Tolumnius, a Rutulian mentioned by Virgil.

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