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*Gustavia*

*Lecythidaceae*

*Gustavia* commemorates a king of Sweden, Gustav III (1746-1792), who was ruling during the last seven years of the life of this genus name's author, Carolus Linnaeus (1707-1778). Historians write how fearing the loss of Swedish independence in 1771, because of the persistent infighting between the factions in the nobility which controlled the Swedish government, Gustav III broke with previous practice which subscribed to a non-political royal family. His political abilities, which he would continue to use throughout his reign, were tested when he eventually engineered an uprising. This led in 1772 (without bloodshed), after he had proved his skills as an orator when he addressed the parliament, to the nobility's acceptance of a new Constitution. He now became involved in restoring strong government and removing corruption to restore Sweden's standing. Gustav III also encouraged the arts and is said to have developed the most cultural and scintillating court in Europe. It is noted too that the Swedish Royal Academies of Arts, of Letters, History and Antiquities, and of Music were all established during Gustav III's reign. The king was also a master of intrigue throughout his life and it has been suggested that this, combined with politics, contributed to his murder. He was shot in the back at the Royal Opera House in Stockholm when attending a midnight masked ball, the inspiration for operas in the following century.