

Rudbeckia

Compositae
[*Asteraceae*]

Rudbeckia commemorates a Swedish father and son, both of whom were named Olof Rudbeck. Olof Rudbeck (1630-1702) the elder was an anatomist, botanist and architect – and, from 1660-1692, was a professor of botany and anatomy at Uppsala. He discovered the lymphatic system at the same time as the Danish physician, mathematician and theologian, Thomas Bartholin (1616-1680) in the early 1650s. He established the first Swedish botanical garden with plants he had collected in Holland which eventually became The Linnaeus Garden or *Linnéträdgården*. During his life Rudbeck senior was preparing an illustrated work, *Campi Elysii*, on all then known plants but his manuscripts and over 3,200 illustrative wood blocks were lost in the Uppsala fire of 1702, together with most of his possessions. He died shortly after the fire. Apart from teaching he sang, composed music, and designed buildings and the city's water-pipe system. His published works included *De circulatione sanguinis*, and *Atlantica*.

Olof Rudbeck (1660-1740) the younger, who was an explorer, physician, botanist and ornithologist – and succeeded his father in 1692 as a professor of botany and anatomy at Uppsala. In 1652 he joined a Lapland expedition commissioned by Charles XI (1655-1697) as a naturalist with particular interest in mountains and his drawings made then of plants, birds and scenery outlived him. Later in life he befriended a poor student at Uppsala, Carolus Linnaeus (1707-1778), who was destined to become a famous botanist. He was ennobled in 1719 and Swedish noblemen at that time enjoyed legal privileges including tax exemption. His published works included *Lexicon harmonicum*.

In the language of flowers the species in this genus are said to be a symbol of justice.