

## Building Block Species Report

### ***Masdevallia ignea* Rchb.f.**

#### **Synonyms**

- Masdevallia boddaertii* Linden ex André in Ill. Hort. 26: t. 357 (1879)  
*Masdevallia ignea* var. *armeniaca* B.S.Williams in Orch.-Grow. Man., ed. 7: 494 (1894)  
*Masdevallia ignea* var. *aurantiaca* B.S.Williams in Orch.-Grow. Man., ed. 7: 494 (1894)  
*Masdevallia ignea* var. *boddaertii* Linden ex André in Ill. Hort. 26: 26 (1879)  
*Masdevallia ignea* var. *citrina* Stein in Orchid.-Buch: 333 (1892)  
*Masdevallia ignea* f. *citrina* (Stein) O.Gruss & M.Wolff in Orchid. Atlas: 216 (2007)  
*Masdevallia ignea* var. *coccinea* Stein in Orchid.-Buch: 333 (1892)  
*Masdevallia ignea* var. *goorii* Sander in Sander's Orch. Guide: 113 (1901)  
*Masdevallia ignea* var. *grandiflora* B.S.Williams in Orch.-Grow. Man., ed. 7: 494 (1894)  
*Masdevallia ignea* var. *hobartii* Stein in Orchid.-Buch: 333 (1892)  
*Masdevallia ignea* var. *marschalliana* Rchb.f. in Gard. Chron. 1872: 351 (1872)  
*Masdevallia ignea* var. *massangeana* B.S.Williams in Orchid Album 6: t. 273 (1887)  
*Masdevallia ignea* var. *pulchra* Vuylsteke ex Cogn. in C.A.Cogniaux & A.P.G.Goossens, Dict. Icon. Orchid., *Masdevallia*: t. 2a (1897)  
*Masdevallia ignea* var. *rubescens* Linden ex Kraenzl. in Repert. Spec. Nov. Regni Veg. Beih. 34: 28 (1925)  
*Masdevallia ignea* var. *splendens* Stein in Orchid.-Buch: 333 (1892)  
*Masdevallia ignea* var. *stobartiana* Rchb.f. in Gard. Chron., n.s., 15: 136 (1881)  
*Masdevallia ignea* var. *superba* Linden ex Kraenzl. in Repert. Spec. Nov. Regni Veg. Beih. 34: 28 (1925)  
*Masdevallia ignea* var. *tomasonii* Gentil in Pl. Cult. Serres Jard. Bot. Brux.: 199 (1907)  
*Masdevallia ignea* var. *vuylstekeana* Cogn. in C.A.Cogniaux & A.P.G.Goossens, Dict. Icon. Orchid., *Masdevallia*: t. 2a (1897)

The species epithet is derived from the Latin word *igneus*, meaning fire-red, and refers to the striking color of the flower. *Masdevallia ignea* can be found growing terrestrial at elevations of 3,000 to 3,130 in the rich humus of tall forests of the Department of Norte de Santander and in the forest below Páramo de Juridicciones in Colombia.

Flowers of *Masd. ignea* are variable in colors and size. The colors include yellow-red, oranges, red and red-oranges, with varying degrees of pink to purple suffusion. The dorsal sepal curves downward between the lateral sepals.

*Masd. Heathii* (*Masd. ignea* x *Masd. veitchiana*) is a fairly large, brilliant yellow to yellow-orange flowers borne on tall, sturdy stems. The dorsal sepal of this cross stands upright, probably contributed by the *Masd. veitchiana* parent. *Masd. Pat Akehurst* (*Masd. Heathii* x *Masd. yunganensis*) produces a nice display of highly colored, striped flowers held just above the leaves on sturdy stems.

*Masd. Patricia Hill* (*Masd. ignea* x *Masd. welischi*) features large, sturdy flowers; vibrant colors; and upright dorsal sepal. *Masd. Minaret* (*Masd. yunganensis* x *Masd. ignea*) has the resplendent bold stripes of the *Masd. yunganensis* parent with the substance and blush of *Masd. ignea*. (Gerritsen and Parson 2005).

Bob Hamilton of Berkeley, California produced clones of tetraploid *Masd. ignea*, these plants are large, flowers are thick and had a striking orange-red color.

## References

- Gerritsen M. and Parsons R. 2005. *Masdevallias*. Gems of the Orchid World. Timber Press.
- Richardson D. 1975 *Masdevallia* Hybrids. American Orchid Society Bulletin. Vol. 44 (5): 432
- Orchidwiz Encyclopedia X9.1
- [www.wcsp.science.kew.org](http://www.wcsp.science.kew.org)