

Genus *Masdevallia*

The genus is named after the botanist José Masdeval. In 1770 Ruíz and Pavón discovered *Masdevallia uniflora* in Perú. *Masdevallia* are distributed from southern México to southern Brazil and the greatest population are located in the Andean cloud forest of Colombia, Ecuador and Perú.

Masdevallias are sympodial without pseudobulbs. In nature, they usually grow epiphytically on the shaded bottom part of the tree, either on the mossy trunk or the lower branches, not too far from the ground. They may be found growing terrestrially in the loose, well-drained substrate at the base of the tree. In most cases their environment is fairly shady and moist. (Webb 1988).

The *Masdevallia* flower is characterized by fused sepals that elongate into long segments called caudae. Plants can measure from 1 inch to 1 foot, but the vast majority are compact size of about 3 to 8 inches.

Although there is *Pleurothallis* scale and it considered caudae under flower form I think general scale should be used because petals are minuscule on *Masdevallia*.



Masdevallia veitchiana 'Entre Flores' AM/AOS 82 Points
Photo by J.C. Uribe



Masdevallia coccinea '2 macs' AM/OCNZ 82.75 Points
Photo by M. Dean

Summary of *Masdevallia* species, progenies and AOS awards

Names	Progeny F1/Total	FCC	AM	HCC	JC	AD	AQ	CC	CCE	CCM	CHM	CBR	CBM	Total	Strengthen	Weakness
<i>Masd. veitchiana*</i>	174/881	2	17	5	2		1			4				31	Dominant for large, brilliantly colored flowers, fine purple hairs, attractive flower shape, long sturdy stems.	The orange color dominates.
<i>Masd. coccinea*</i>	135/438	3	31	21	1		1		3	13			4	77		
<i>Masd. ignea*</i>	68/262		21	12						7				40	Could impart brilliant red color.	deflexed dorsal sepals could be imparted
<i>Masd. triangularis*</i>	69/350		4	2						3			1	10	Tend to impart flower form and upright inflorescence.	
<i>Masd. uniflora*</i>	55/143		1	3							1		1	6	Usually imparts a strong purplish color. Erect inflorescence.	
<i>Masd. decumana*</i>	54/143		9	4					1	1	1			16	Flower full, widely spread lateral sepals.	
<i>Masd. caudata</i>	41/121		10	6	1				1	3	2		1	24		
<i>Masd. glandulosa</i>	40/65		3							3	1			7		
<i>Masd. infracta</i>	38/136		4	3	3					2	3			15		
<i>Masd. constricta*</i>	35/117		7	6						1		1		15	Impart free flowering and straighten out the caudae.	
<i>Masd. exquisita</i>	33/35		2	1	1				1	2	1			8		
<i>Masd. chaparensis*</i>	33/116		3	3	1					2	1			10	Marking and coloration are dominant	Sometime hybrids can get weak flower stem.
<i>Masd. strobilii</i>	33/282		1	1					1	2			2	7		
<i>Masd. weilschii</i>	31/61		1							1		1		3		
<i>Masd. davisii</i>	30/59		2	2										4		
<i>Masd. macrura*</i>	27/106		8	7						1			3	19	Fleshy substance and large size flower.	
<i>Masd. datura</i>	27/83			3						3	1			7		
<i>Masd. hirtzii</i>	22/34		4	3						1	1			9		
<i>Masd. tovarensis*</i>	21/25		4		1				2	4			1	12	Tolerant to different temperatures conditions.	
<i>Masd. yungasensis*</i>	21/200		1	1						2	2			6	Tend to impart the striped veins.	
<i>Masd. amabilis</i>	21/35		1							2	2		1	6		
<i>Masd. tonduzii</i>	20/38		4							4	1			9	Impart warm-tolerance and shade of yellow.	
<i>Masd. barlaeana</i>	20/38		1	1						1				3		
<i>Masd. floribunda</i>	18/22		4	3	1					4	2			14		
<i>Masd. angulata</i>	17/37		2	3						5			4	14		
<i>Masd. mendozae</i>	15/18		2	2	1					5	2			12		
<i>Masd. schroederiana</i>	15/24		2	3					1	9			1	16		
<i>Masd. ayabacana</i>	15/42		10	1							2	1		14		
<i>Masd. princeps</i>	13/15	1	9	7							1			18		
<i>Masd. Pinocchio</i>	6/6			1						3		1			Imparted successive flowering.	

References

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- Webb M. 1998. Dozens of options exist for anyone wishing to try these colorful orchids. Orchids. Vol. 67 (1): 11.
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