**Massonia citrina** (Hyacinthaceae, Hyacinthoideae)—a new species from the Western Cape Province (South Africa)

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**Abstract**

In the course of a taxonomic revision of the genus *Massonia* Houtt., *Massonia citrina* M.Pinter, Deutsch, U.Müll.-Doblies & D.Müll.-Doblies, a new species of this genus from the Western Cape Province (South Africa), is here described. This species is similar to members of the *M. depressa* group, but it can be easily distinguished by its yellow filaments and style and the longer perigone-filament tube. A complete morphological description of the new species is presented.

**Key words**: Asparagaceae, Flora of Southern Africa, Hyacintheae, Massonieae, Scilloideae, Taxonomy

**Introduction**

The family Hyacinthaceae consists of about 700–900 species. They are mainly distributed in Africa, Europe and southwestern Asia, with a single small genus—*Oziroë* Rafinesque (1837: 53)—in South America (Speta 1998a, b, APG 2003). Within this family four monophyletic clades, filed as subfamilies Hyacinthoideae, Ornithogaloideae, Oziroëeae and Urgineoideae, are accepted (Speta 1998a, Pfosser & Speta 1999, Manning et al. 2004).

Alternatively Hyacinthaceae is treated as subfamily Scilloideae of the Asparagaceae. In this case, the former subfamilies are reduced to tribes Hyacintheae, Ornithogaleae, Oziroëeae and Urgineeae (APG 2009, Chase et al. 2009). However, mostly based on morphology, we prefer the treatment as Hyacinthaceae.

The Hyacinthoideae can be further divided into three tribes: Massonieae, Pseudoprosperae and Hyacintheae. The two former are distributed through sub-Saharan Africa, the Arabian Peninsula to India, while the latter occurs in Eurasia and northern Africa (Speta 1998a, b, Wetschnig et al. 2002, Pfosser et al. 2003, Manning et al. 2004). The generic treatment within the subfamily seems to be more or less stable. However, in some rather recent publications a new genus—*Namophila* U.Müller-Doblies & D.Müller-Doblies (1997: 77)—was described and some other genera were lumped into broader generic concepts (e.g. *Polyxena* Kunth (1843: 294) into *Lachenalia* J.Jacquin ex Murray (1784: 314), *Whiteheadia* Harvey (1868: 396) into *Massonia* Houttuyn (1780: 424), and *Drimiopsis* Lindley & Paxton (1851–1852: 73, fig.172) and *Resnova* Van der Merwe (1946: 46) into *Ledebouria* Roth (1821: 194) (cfr. Manning et al. 2004). By all means, the inventory of species within the Massonieae is not yet completed.