



## ***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, Oziroëoideae 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 Urgineae (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.