

# MARIBYRNONG ORCHID SOCIETY

## CULTURAL NOTES FOR MASDEVALLIA

Masdevallias are cool growing orchids from South America, growing mainly in mountain cloud forests. Masdevallias should be grown in a protected environment, either under cover (in a shade house) or undercover of other plants. eg. cymbidium leaves, though they do need some light (approx 50 - 70% shade) to flower.

Because Masdevallias have no pseudobulbs in which to store moisture, the potting media needs to be kept moist - but NOT WET. If possible limit or avoid winter rains. It is the combination of being WET and COLD that is harmful during the winter months. They also need protection from frosts.

In summer, try to keep below 30° - lower if possible. If the temperatures are very high, it may be necessary to move the plants to a cooler area. Keep the plants moist at all times and increase the humidity around the plants. If very hot, damping down the surrounds may need to be carried out several times a day - BUT, DO NOT SIT PLANTS IN WATER.

### POTTING MIX

This varies per grower, most popular is good quality sphagnum moss, or a combination of sphagnum moss and polystyrene is also in common use with success.

Plants with larger roots do well in small size orchid bark.

### REPOTTING

Masdevallias enjoy being repotted annually. Repot either in autumn or spring - NOT in summer. Do not over pot, use the size of the pot which will just accomodate the roots. Many Masdevallias grow and flower well in small pots.

### FERTILIZING

Weak liquid fertilizer at regular intervals (every 3-4 weeks)

### PESTS AND DISEASES

Black marks can be a nuisance on the leaves, mainly in the summer - spraying with a fungicide such as Benlate is helpful, and the use of a fan to circulate the air movement is beneficial. Use the normal snail and slug pellets and any other product you may use on your other orchids to help keep pests away.



Masdevallia  
corniculata.