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Crocoshia masoniorum

[Synonyms : *Crocoshia masonorum*, *Tritonia masoniorum*]

MONTBRETIA (English and Spanish) is a perennial. Native to tropical and southern Africa it has reddish stemmed one-sided spike of small orchid-like, upward-facing, yellow-centred, bright orange-red flowers.

It is also known as *Azafran ornamental* (Italian), Giant montbretia, Golden swan, Golden tritonia, *Montbretie* (German), and *Rosientje* (Dutch).

Masoniorum commemorates a Canon G.E. and Miss Mason plant collectors of South African species. (Canon Mason may have been a Canon George Edward Mason who was Rector of Whitwell Parish (1874-1908) in Derbyshire. He visited South Africa on several occasions and eventually died there.)

Montbretia is popular grown in gardens as a source of cut flowers. (If the flowers are dried and placed in warm water they will emit a strong saffron-like smell.)