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M. R. MULFORD

Plant Pat. 2,756

PILEA PLANT

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Inventor.
Marion R. Mulford
By: Robb & Robb
Attorneys.

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2,756 PILEA PLANT

Marion R. Mulford, Altamonte Springs, Fla., assignor
to Rare Plants, Inc., Altamonte Springs, Fla., a corpo-
ration of Florida

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1 Claim. (Cl. Plt.—88)

The present invention relates to a new and distinct
variety of Pilea plant which was discovered by me in the
greenhouses on my property at Lebanon, Ohio, as a sport
of a Pilea plant of unknown parentage which had been
found by me in Central America.

At the time of my discovery of the sport aforemen-
tioned, a group of plants of the parent variety were being
grown under my direction and control in the greenhouses
referred to above, in the course of which my attention
was attracted to the new sport because of a number of
important characteristics which were substantially dif-
ferent from those typical of the parent variety, and which
represent substantial and valuable improvements thereover
that make it more attractive and desirable from a com-
mercial standpoint, as evidenced by the following unique
combination of features which distinguish the sport from
its parent, as well as from all other Pilea varieties of
which I am aware:

(1) A larger plant size than that of the parent variety,
with mature plants attaining a height of up to 12 inches;

(2) Larger and heavier leaves than those of the parent
variety, said leaves averaging from 4 inches to 7 inches in
size and being more prominently roughened in a papilla-
mamillate form;

(3) A distinctive and attractive leaf color ranging
from light green at the edges, with darker shades of green
toward the bases of the protuberances and sometimes
being overlaid with reddish-brown shadings over the cen-
tral portions of the leaves;

(4) Distinctive and attractive light coral pink to salmon
pink colored flowers borne in clusters; and

(5) Ease of reproduction by cuttings.

Asexual reproduction of my new Pilea variety, as per-
formed by me by cuttings at Lebanon, Ohio, and also at
Altamonte Springs, Fla., shows that the foregoing charac-
teristics and distinctions are fixed and established and
come true through succeeding propagations.

The accompanying drawings show a typical specimen
plant of my new Pilea variety as depicted in bloom and
in color as nearly true as it is reasonably possible to make
the same in a color illustration of this character.

The following is a detailed description of my new Pilea
variety, as based on observations of specimen plants
grown at Altamonte Springs, Fla., with color terminology
in accordance with Koster's Color Guide, except where
general color terms of ordinary dictionary significance
are obvious:

Parentage: Sport of a Central American Pilea variety of
unknown parentage.

Propagation: Holds its distinguishing characteristics
through succeeding propagations by cuttings.

Plant

Habit: Herbaceous perennial.

Growth: Low-growing; ranges in height from 8 inches to
12 inches, with an equal or somewhat greater spread;
from upright to semi-spreading; much-branched; shade
preferring; usually monoecious, but sometimes dioeci-
ous.

Stem: Approximately square in cross-section, but with the
angles enlarged to form rather prominent ridges, with a
prominent groove between each adjacent pair of ridges;
glaucous except for a few scattered, inconspicuous,

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short (from $\frac{1}{8}$ inch to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch long), slender, watery,
semitransparent hairs; surface slightly but distinctly
rugose; from about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in diameter.

Color.—Pale green at first, but takes on a reddish-
brown color corresponding to near Violet, Plate
59, particularly toward base, as stem ages, with
more reddish-brown color than in parent variety.

Internodes.—Rather short (from about 1 inch to 2
inches long).

Nodes.—Not noticeably enlarged or swollen, but hav-
ing a brownish-red line encircling the same when
the stipules abscise.

Leaves: Simple; opposite; petiolate.

Stipules.—Short; board; inconspicuous; clasping;
encircling the stem; thin-membranaceous; from ob-
tuse to rounded; glaucous, but with hairs like those
on the stem on their edges and with a few scattered
on the surface; abscizing early. Color—greenish
white.

Petioles.—From $\frac{1}{2}$ inch to 1 inch long; terete except
for being somewhat flattened above and slightly
grooved near base; medium stout (from about $\frac{1}{32}$
inch to $\frac{1}{16}$ inch in diameter); glaucous except for
a few inconspicuous, irregularly scattered slender,
watery and semi-transparent hairs from about $\frac{3}{16}$
inch to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch long. Color—light green, corre-
sponding to near Reseda, Plate 85.

Blades.—Broadly ovate, but occasionally almost
round; symmetrical; from about 4 inches to 7
inches long. Base—rounded, but varying from ob-
tuse to slightly acute, and occasionally being slight-
ly notched. Margin—irregularly and coarsely ser-
rate to almost rather deeply dentate; medium
thickness, but appearing very thick because of very
rough surface.

Upper surface.—More prominently roughened than
in parent variety and being papillate-mammillate
instead of only savoyed-rugose; velvety; tri-nerved,
with nerves deeply recessed. Color—margins near
Lettuce Green, Plate 74, shading darker toward
center of blade to near Spinach Green, Plate 75
between veins and having a dark green overcast
near Taxus Green, Plate 81 or even darker toward
base of protruding areas, while intervenal areas of
main portion of blade are deep, velvety brownish-
red. Veins and veinlets—deeply recessed; Color—
brownish-red, corresponding to near Salmon,
Plate 18.

Under surface.—Lighter colored than upper surface,
with margins and intervenal areas corresponding
to near Artichoke Green, Plate 72, with some
medium brownish-red overlay somewhat lighter
in shade than on corresponding areas of upper
surface. Veins and veinlets—prominently protrud-
ing; Color—light green, with slight tinge of brown-
ish-red along main nerves or veins, with veinlets
being deep brownish-red corresponding to near
Deep Carmine Violet, Plate 46.

Axillary buds: Extremely small and barely visible until
they start to unfold into vegetative or flower structures;
either vegetative or inflorescence producing; charac-
teristically a single vegetative branch develops from an
axially bud, or sometimes one, or more commonly two,
inflorescences, and a vegetative shoot develops from an
axil.

Flowers

Inflorescence: Both staminate and pistillate influore-
scences are cymose; pistillate ones spread out to form
a flattish structure from about 1 inch to 2 inches in di-
ameter, with rather short, slender green peduncles and
peduncle branches and pedicels lacking or very short;

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staminate inflorescences are extremely compact, and are from the $\frac{1}{2}$ inch to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in diameter, forming what looks more like a flattish head than a cyme, and having extremely short pedicels, with green pedicels and peduncle branches.

Color.—Pale coral pink or salmon pink, corresponding to near Bright Rose, Plate 32.

Pistillate flowers.—From 3 to 6 individual flowers borne in small, almost sessile clusters in the much-branched inflorescence; from 50 to 100 individual flowers in the cyme, with each flower having a 3 or 4-parted calyx closely clasping the pistil; individual flowers approximately $\frac{1}{8}$ inch long and nearly the same width, with inconspicuous scale-like staminodia; ovary angled in cross-section and being from narrowly ovate to ovate-lanceolate, glaucous and green in color, with sessile stigma appearing tufted and having from 5 to 10 short hair-like branches of reddish-brown color.

Staminate flowers.—Small (about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch in diameter and of about the same or a little greater length), with 3 or 4 small, glaucous sepals that are shorter than the stemens; stamens being 3 to 4 in number, with almost sessile anthers that dis-

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charge their pollen explosively; there may be 40 or more staminate flowers in the inflorescence, with inconspicuous abortive pistils.

I claim:

A new and distinct variety of *Pilea* plant, substantially as herein shown and described, characterized particularly as to novelty by the unique combination of a larger plant size than that of the parent variety, with mature plants attaining a height of up to 12 inches, larger and heavier leaves than those of the parent variety, said leaves averaging from 4 inches to 7 inches in size and being more prominently roughened in a papilla-mammillate form, a distinctive and attractive leaf color ranging from light green at the edges, with darker shades of green toward the bases of the protuberances and sometimes being overlaid with reddish-brown shadings over the central portions of the leaves, distinctive and attractive light coral pink to salmon pink colored flowers borne in clusters, and ease of reproduction by cuttings.

No references cited.

ABRAHAM G. STONE, *Primary Examiner*.

ROBERT E. BAGWILL, *Examiner*.