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Poulsen

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[54] **ELATIOR BEGONIA PLANT NAMED
‘BRITTA’**

[76] **Inventor:** **Jens N. Poulsen**, Gartneriet J.N.P.
Larsmindevej 1, Lisbjerg, DK-8200
Aarhus N., Denmark

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Primary Examiner—James R. Feyrer
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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A distinctive cultivar of Elatior Begonia plant named Britta, characterized by its upright and spreading growth habit; compact plant size; freely branching habit; strong stems and stem base; small leaves; medium orange flower color; large number of flowers per raceme; small flowers; early flowering; and strong and vigorous root system.

1 Drawing Sheet

1

The present invention relates to a new and distinctive cultivar of Begonia plant, botanically known as *Begonia × hiemalis*, commercially known as Elatior Begonia, and referred to by the cultivar name Britta.

The new cultivar was discovered by the inventor in Aarhus, Denmark, as a mutation of the nonpatented Elatior Begonia cultivar Kathleen, and was observed in a group of 15-cm flowering plants of the parent.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by tip cuttings in Aarhus, Denmark, has shown that the unique features of this new Elatior Begonia are stabilized and are reproduced true to type in successive propagations.

The new cultivar has not been observed under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary significantly with variations in environment such as temperature, light level and daylength, without, however, any variance in genotype.

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and are determined to be the unique characteristics of Britta. The following characteristics differentiate the new cultivar from the parent cultivar Kathleen and other Elatior Begonias commercially known and used in the floriculture industry, namely the nonpatented cultivar Brit:

1. Plants of the cultivar Britta are upright and spreading in growth habit. Plants of the cultivars Kathleen and Brit are upright, but not spreading.
2. Plants of the cultivar Britta are compact. Plants of the cultivar Britta are less vigorous and shorter than plants of the cultivars Kathleen and Brit.
3. Plants of the cultivar Britta do not require pinching to produce full plants as they are freely branching. Plants of the cultivar Britta are more freely branching than plants of the cultivars Kathleen and Brit.
4. Plants of the cultivar Britta have strong stems and stem bases. Plants of the cultivars Britta, Kathleen and Brit are similar in stem strength. Plants of the cultivar Britta have greater stem base strength than plants of Kathleen and Brit.
5. Plants of the cultivar Britta have small leaves. Plants of the cultivar Britta have smaller leaves than plants of the cultivars Kathleen and Brit.
6. Flowers of the cultivar Britta are medium orange in color (Orange Group 30C). In comparison, flowers of the cultivar Kathleen are coral in color (Red Group 39B), and flowers of the cultivar Brit are darker orange in color (Orange-Red Group 33B).
7. Plants of the cultivar Britta have a large number of flowers per raceme. Plants of the cultivar Britta have more flowers per raceme than plants of the cultivars Kathleen and

2

Brit.

8. Flowers of the cultivar Britta are small in diameter. Plants of the cultivar Britta have smaller flowers than plants of the cultivars Kathleen and Brit.
9. Plants of the cultivar Britta flower early. Plants of the cultivar Kathleen flower similar to plants of Britta. Plants of the cultivar Brit flower later than plants of Britta.
10. Plants of the cultivar Britta have strong and vigorous root systems. Plants of the cultivar Kathleen have similar root systems to plants of Britta. Plants of the cultivar Brit have weaker and less vigorous root systems than plants of Britta.

The accompanying color photograph illustrates the overall appearance and flower color of the new cultivar, showing the colors as true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in colored reproduction of this type. The photograph comprises a side perspective view of a typical potted plant of Britta.

The following observations, measurements, values, and comparisons describe plants grown in Aarhus, Denmark, under commercial practice in a glass-covered greenhouse with day and night temperatures ranging from 19 to 21 C. Depending on cloud cover, light levels ranged from 5,000 to 35,000 lux.

In the following description, color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used. Botanical classification: *Begonia × hiemalis* cultivar Britta. Commercial classification: Elatior Begonia. Parentage: Naturally-occurring mutation of *Begonia × hiemalis* cultivar Kathleen.

Propagation:

- A. *Type*.—By tip cuttings.
- B. *Time to initiate roots*.—Tip cuttings root in 17 to 21 days at temperatures of 21 C.
- C. *Rooting habit*.—Root system is very strong and develops rapidly. Roots are prolific and dense. Roots are fine and fibrous in texture.

Plant description:

- A. *Plant form*.—Upright and spreading potted plant, freely branching with good stem and stem base strength. Flowers are fully double and abundant. Plants flower continuously under warm (higher than 18 C.) night temperatures.
- B. *Growth habit*.—Moderate growth rate and vigor. Compact in plant habit with short internodes. Suitable for 10 to 15-cm containers. Under optimal environmental conditions, 10 to 12 weeks are required to produce proportional 12.5-cm potted

plants (approximately 20 cm in height) from tip cuttings that are directly-stuck in the container. Vegetative shoots are formed at basal nodes and flowering shoots are formed at upper nodes.

- C. *Foliage and stem description*.—1. Leaf arrangement: Simple, alternate. 2. Quantity of leaves: 20 to 30 per 12.5-cm potted plant. 3. Leaf length: 8 to 10 cm. 4. Leaf width: 10 to 11 cm. 5. Leaf shape: Cordate. 6. Leaf tip: Acute. 7. Leaf base: Obtuse. 8. Leaf margin: Serrate. 9. Leaf texture: a. Upper side: Smooth, leathery, glabrous. b. Under side: Leathery, sparsely pubescent. 10. Leaf color: a. Young foliage, upper side: 139B. b. Young foliage, under side: 139D. c. Mature foliage, upper side: 139A. d. Mature foliage, under side: 139C. 11. Leaf attachment: Stalked. 12. Petiole length: 1 to 1.2 cm. 13. Petiole diameter: 4 to 5 mm. 14. Petiole color: 139C. 15. Venation pattern: Palmate, smooth on upper side, raised on under side. 16. Venation color: a. Upper side: 139C. b. Under side: 139D. 17. Stem color: 139C. 18. Stem strength: Very strong. 19. Stem base strength: Very strong.

Flowering description:

- A. *Flowering habit*.—Flowers arranged in racemes. Many racemes in flower simultaneously. Flowering continuous under warm (higher than 18 C.) night temperatures. 25
- B. *Natural flowering season*.—Plants will flower year around regardless of daylength, however plants will flower earlier and more abundantly if daylength is 12 hours or less. 30
- C. *Quantity of flowers*.—Six to 8 flowers per raceme, up to 50 flowers at various stages of development may be present per 12.5-cm pot.

- D. *Flowers*.—1. Shape: Circular. 2. Diameter: 2.5 to 4 cm. 3. Height: 1.5 to 1.7 cm.

- E. *Peduncle*.—1. Length: 1 to 1.2 cm. 2. Diameter: 3 mm. 3. Color: 139C. 4. Aspect: Erect. 5. Texture: Glabrous.

- F. *Flower bud*.—1. Shape: Ovoid. 2. Diameter: 0.5 cm. 3. Length: 0.5 cm. 4. Rate of opening: 3 to 5 days. 5. Color: 30D.

- G. *Tepals*.—1. Arrangement: Rosette. 2. Shape: Flat, rounded. 3. Quantity per flower: 8 to 20. 4. Length: 1.5 to 2 cm. 5. Width: 1.5 to 2 cm. 6. Color: a. When opening: 30D. b. Fully open: (1) Upper side: 30D. (2) Under side: 30C. c. Fading to: 30C. 7. Margin: Entire. 8. Texture: Smooth, velvety, glabrous.

- H. *Sepals*.—1. Arrangement: Opposite. 2. Shape: Oval. 3. Quantity per flower: 2. 4. Length: 1.3 cm. 5. Width: 1.5 cm. 6. Color: a. Upper side: 139C. b. Underside: 139D. 7. Tip: Rounded, slightly pointed. 8. Margin: Entire. 9. Texture: Thin, transparent.

- I. *Reproductive organs*.—1. Stamens: None. 2. Pistils: None.

Postproduction longevity:

- A. *Individual flowers*.—Generally 2 to 3 weeks.

- B. *Whole plants*.—Generally 6 weeks under interior conditions.

Disease resistance: Plants of the cultivar Britta are resistant to Powdery Mildew.

I claim:

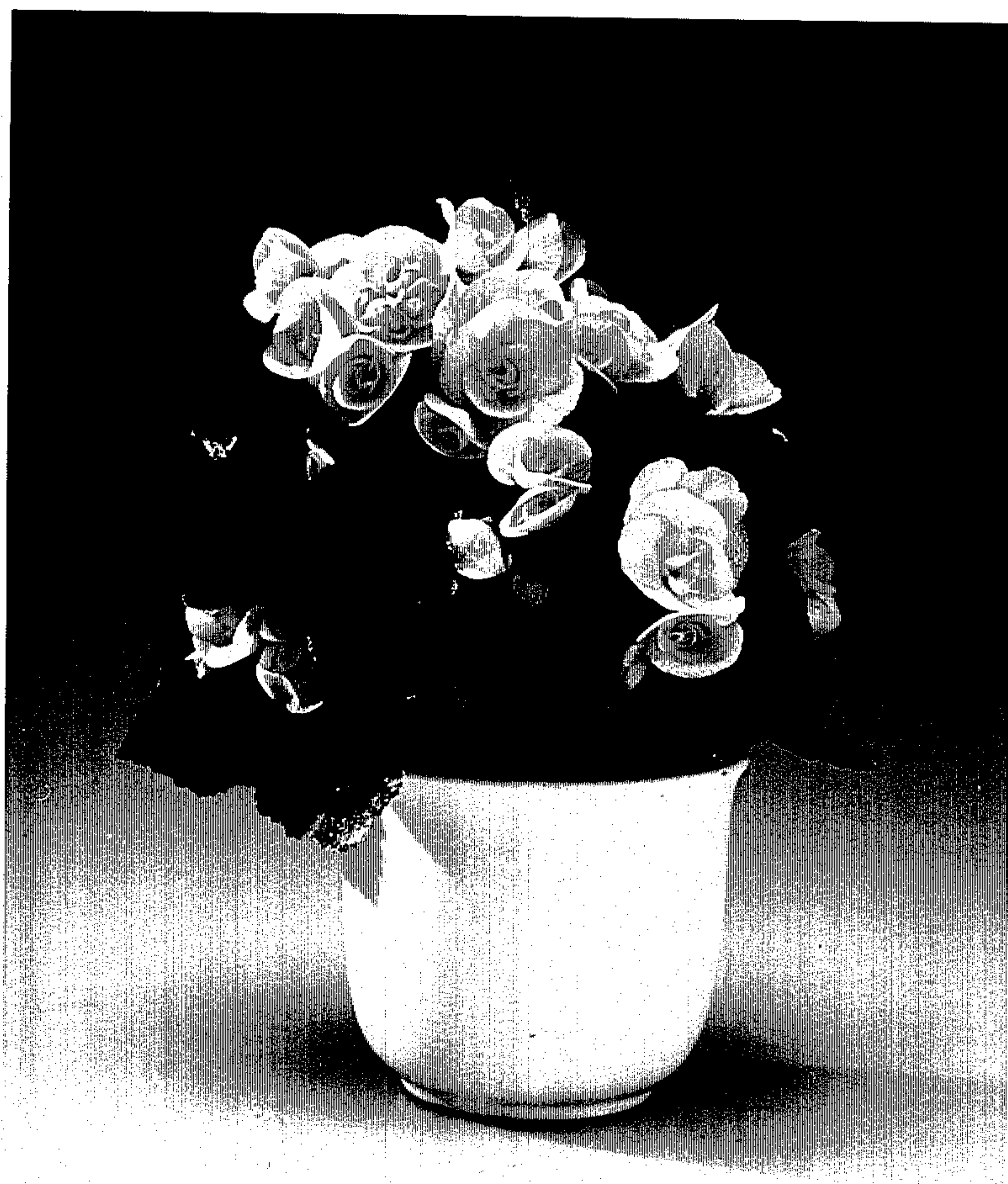
1. A new and distinct Elatior Begonia plant named Britta, as illustrated and described.

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BRITTA

