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Jack et al.

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[54] CHAMELAUCIUM (WAXFLOWER) PLANT
NAMED 'ROSIE'

[75] Inventors: Brian Jack; Victoria Syme, both of
Coorow, Australia

[73] Assignee: New World Plants USA, Escondido,
Calif.

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Primary Examiner—James R. Feyrer
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—C. A. Whealy

[57] ABSTRACT

A new and distinct interspecific Chamelaucium hybrid cul-
tivar (known commercially as waxflower) distinguished by its
strong and erect flowering stems; upright and semi-open
growth habit; dense terminal floral display; dark ref flower
bud color; dark pink flower color; and good postharvest
longevity.

3 Drawing Sheets

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The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of Chamelaucium (Waxflower), botanically known as an
interspecific Chamelaucium hybrid, and hereinafter referred
to by the cultivar name Rosie.

The new cultivar is a product of a planned and controlled
breeding program conducted by the inventors in Coorow,
Western Australia, Australia. The new cultivar originated
from a deliberate cross by the inventors between two dif-
ferent species of the genus Chamelaucium. An unnamed
selection of *Chamelaucium megalopetalum* was used as the
female or seed parent and the *Chamelaucium uncinatum*
cultivar Purple Pride (not patented) was used as the male or
pollen parent. Twenty days after the cross-pollination, the
immature seed pod was harvested and the developing
embryos were aseptically dissected and transferred onto a
nutrient agar-based medium for further development. Ma-
ture plants developed from these dissected embryos. The
cultivar Rosie was discovered and selected by the inventors
as a flowering plant within the progeny of the stated cross in
a controlled environment in Coorow, Western Australia,
Australia.

Asexual propagation of the new cultivar by cuttings taken
at Coorow, Western Australia, Australia, and Escondido,
Calif., has shown that the unique features of this new
Chamelaucium plant are stabilized and reproduced true to
type in successive generations of asexual propagation.

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and
are determined to be the unique characteristics of the new
Chamelaucium. These characteristics in combination distin-
guish Rosie as a new and distinct cultivar:

1. Strong and erect flowering stems.
2. Upright and semi-open growth habit.
3. Dense terminal floral display.
4. Dark red flower bud color.
5. Dark pink flower color.
6. Good postharvest longevity.

The new Chamelaucium differs from its seed parent, the
selection of *Chamelaucium megalopetalum*, in the following
characteristics:

1. Plants of the new Chamelaucium flower faster than
plants of the seed parent.
2. The petal shape of plants of the new Chamelaucium is
round whereas the petal shape of plants of the seed parent is
obovate.
3. The flower bud color is darker red on plants of the new
Chamelaucium than the flower bud color on plants of the
seed parent.
4. At maturity, the petal color of the new Chamelaucium
is dark pink whereas the petal color of the seed parent is
white.

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5. Plants of the new Chamelaucium have more flowers per
stem and appear more dense and full than plants of the seed
parent.

6. Plants of the new Chamelaucium have broader flow-
ering stems compared to plants of the seed parent.

The new Chamelaucium differs from its pollen parent, the
Chamelaucium uncinatum cultivar Purple Pride, in the fol-
lowing characteristics:

1. The petal shape of the new Chamelaucium is round
whereas the petal shape of Purple Pride is obovate.
2. The petal color of the new Chamelaucium when
opening is white compared to the purple petal color of
Purple Pride. At maturity, the petal color of the new Cha-
melaucium is dark and the petal color of Purple Pride is red
purple. The flower color development rate is slower for
plants of the new Chamelaucium compared to plants of the
pollen parent. The floral tube color is also different, as the
floral tube of the new Chamelaucium is yellow green and the
floral tube of Purple Pride is red brown.

3. Plants of the new Chamelaucium have more flowers per
stem and appear more dense and full than plants of Purple
Pride.

The new Chamelaucium can be compared to the Chame-
laucium cultivar Revelation, disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. P.P.
8,791. Plants of Rosie differ from plants of revelation in the
following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new Chamelaucium have shorter intern-
odes, smaller leaves, and longer peduncles than plants of
Revelation.
2. The petal color of the new Chamelaucium at maturity
is dark pink compared to the light violet petal color of
Revelation. The flower color development rate is slower for
plants of the new Chamelaucium compared to plants of
Revelation.

3. The floral tube color at the distal end is yellow green on
plants of the new Chamelaucium and the floral tube color at
the distal end is purple brown on plants of Revelation.

4. Plants of the new Chamelaucium have smooth floral
tubes compared to the prominently fluted floral tubes of
plants of Revelation.

A detailed comparison of the new Chamelaucium, its
parents and Revelation plants appears in Chart A at the end
of the specification.

The new Chamelaucium plant has not been observed
under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype
may vary significantly with variations in environment such
as temperature and light level, without, however, any vari-
ance in genotype.

The accompanying colored photographs show typical

specimens of the vegetative growth and flowers of the new Chamelaucium plant, showing the colors as true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in colored reproductions of this type.

The first photograph comprises a side perspective view of typical flowering stems of the new Chamelaucium plant grown in Escondido, Calif. This photograph shows the upright and semi-open growth habit of flowering stems of the new Chamelaucium.

The second and third photographs comprise close-up views of the new Chamelaucium's flowers showing the cultivar's unique petal colors that change with the development of the flower.

In the second photograph, flower buds are dark red; and as the flowers open, the petal color is white with a slight pale pink blush.

In the third photograph, flowers shown are approaching maturity and petal color is increasingly becoming dark pink in color.

The following observations, measurements, values, and comparisons describe plants grown in Escondido, Calif. Values representing size of plants, flowers and foliage are averages of plants produced under standard commercial cultural practices. Color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

Classification:

Botanical.—An interspecific Chamelaucium hybrid, Chamelaucium megalopetalum × Chamelaucium uncinatum cultivar Rosie.

Commercial.—Hybrid waxflower.

Parentage:

Female or seed parent.—Selection of Chamelaucium megalopetalum (not patented).

Male of pollen parent.—Chamelaucium uncinatum cultivar Purple Pride (not patented).

Plant description:

Form.—Erect, branched woody shrub.

Growth habit.—Vigorous, rigid and upright. Semi-open growth habit.

Flowering stem length.—1.8 m.

Foliage description.—Numerous leaves on one- and two-year-old wood; opposite arrangement; sessile; and aromatic. Internode length: 10 mm. Leaf size: Length: 10 mm. Width: 1 mm. Shape: Narrowly lanceolate. Texture: Glabrous. Margin: Entire. Aspect: Flat and thick. Color: Dark green sometimes with red tint.

Flower description:

Flowering season.—Flowers develop and open throughout the spring.

Flower longevity.—Flower are long-lasting on the plant and after cutting, flowers and calyx persistent.

Flowering habit.—Flowers develop on thin first-year stems from upper axils. Numerous flowers arranged in terminal clusters, broad and dense floral display.

Flower shape.—Rounded outline, flattened cup-shaped floral tube with rounded, slightly cupped, orbicular petals.

Flower diameter.—1.8 cm.

Flower bud.—Form: Spherical, covered with thin deciduous bracteoles. Diameter: 7 to 8 mm prior to petal opening. Color: With operculum: Dark red (46A). Without operculum: White (155D). Bud tube: Green (143C).

Petals.—Quantity: Five. Shape: Rounded, slightly cupped and orbicular. Diameter: 8 mm. Texture:

Waxy. Calyx: Five calyx lobes arranged alternately between petals. Color: When opening: White (155D) with pale pink blush at times. Developing flowers: White (155D) background with light pink (70D) areas a petal distal ends. Mature flowers: As flowers age, petals become more uniformly dark pink (61C) in color with light violet (75A) venation. Flower nectary, immature: Yellow green (144A). Flower nectary, mature: Yellow green (152A). Calyx lobe, mature: Pale pink/purple. Floral tube: Fluting: Slight to absent. Outline: Flared. Diameter: 8 mm. Color: Midpoint: Yellow green. Distal end: Yellow green. Peduncles: Length: 17 mm. Aspect: Upright and erect. Color: Green. Fragrance: Aromatic when crushed.

Reproductive organs.—Stamens: Quantity: Ten fertile stamens with ten infertile stamenoids arranged alternately between stamens. Staminoidal outline: Narrow to medium, triangular. Stamenoidal collar color, mature: Pale pink to purple. Anthers, mature: Width: 0.7 mm. Color: Brown (200D). Filaments: Length: 2.5 mm. Color: White. Pollen: Color: Green brown. Texture: Waxy and sticky. Pistils: Quantity: One. Style: Length: 7 mm. Color: Immature: White (155D). Mature: Light Violet (84B). Stigma: Color, mature: Yellow (17B). Texture: Bearded and pubescent.

Fruit.—Shape: Hemispherical. Form: Three-celled capsule formed by the hardened bas of the persistent calyx.

Disease resistance: No resistance or susceptibility to plant pathogens has been observed.

CHART A

CHARACTERISTIC	ROSIE	PURPLE PRIDE, pollen parent	Chamelaucium megalopetalum selection, seed parent	REVELATION
FLOWER BUD COLOR, WITH OPERCULUM	Dark red 46A	Dark red 46A	Red 46B	Dark red 46A
BUD COLOR, WITHOUT OPERCULUM	White 155D	Pale purple 80A	White 155B	White 155D
BUD TUBE COLOR	Green 143C	Green 146A	Light green 145A	Green to violet 144A to 77B
PETAL SHAPE, AFTER OPENING	Round	Obovate	Obovate	Round
PETAL COLOR, WHEN OPENING	White with slight pink blush 155D	Purple 78A	White 155B	White 155C
PETAL COLOR DEVELOPMENT RATE	Slow	Medium	Slow	Fast
PETAL COLOR, MATURE	Dark pink 61C	Red purple 59B/59C	White 155D	Light violet 84B
FLOWER NECTARY COLOR, IMMATURE	Yellow green 144A	Light brown 177D	Green 148A	Green 146D
FLOWER NECTARY COLOR, MATURE	Yellow green 152A	Dark purple 187A	Green 146B/146C	Green 147A

CHART A-continued

CHARAC- TERISTIC	ROSIE	PURPLE PRIDE, pollen parent	<i>Chamelaucium</i> <i>megapetalum</i> selection, seed parent	REVELA- TION
STAMINOIDAL OUTLINE	Narrow/ medium, triangular	Broad, triangular	Medium, triangular	Narrow, triangular
STAMINOIDAL COLLAR COLOR, MATURE	Pale pink/ purple	Pale pink/ purple	White	Very pale pink/purple
CALYX LOBE COLOR, MATURE	Pale pink/ purple	Pale pink/ purple	White	Pale purple
STYLE COLOR, MATURE	Light violet 84B	Purple	White	Light violet 84B
FLORAL TUBE FLUTING, IMMATURE	Slight/ absent	Slight	Slight	Prominent
FLORAL TUBE OUTLINE	Flared	Flared	Conical	Flared

CHART A-continued

CHARAC- TERISTIC	ROSIE	PURPLE PRIDE, pollen parent	<i>Chamelaucium</i> <i>megapetalum</i> selection, seed parent	REVELA- TION
FLORAL TUBE DIAMETER	8 mm	7 mm	6.8 mm	6.8 mm
FLORAL TUBE COLOR, MIDPOINT	Yellow green	Red/ brown	Green	Green
FLORAL TUBE COLOR, DISTAL END	Yellow green	Red/ brown	Green	Purple brown
FLOWERING STEM SHAPE	Broad	Broad	Narrow	Broad

It is claimed:
1. A new and distinct *Chamelaucium* interspecific hybrid plant named Rosie, as illustrated and described.

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