



US00PP10481P

United States Patent [19]
Flemer, III

[11] Patent Number: Plant 10,481
[45] Date of Patent: Jul. 7, 1998

[54] CLETHRA ALNIFOLIA PLANT NAMED
‘SEPTEMBER BEAUTY’
[75] Inventor: William Flemer, III, Plainsboro
Township, Middlesex County, N.J.
[73] Assignee: Treesearch (Partnership), Allentown,
N.J.
[21] Appl. No.: 735,639
[22] Filed: Oct. 23, 1996
[51] Int. Cl.⁶ A01H 5/00

[52] U.S. Cl. Plt./54.1
[58] Field of Search Plt./54.1
Primary Examiner—Howard J. Locker
Assistant Examiner—Kent L. Bell

[57] ABSTRACT
A new and distinct Clethra variety characterized by its
hardiness and its ability to bloom late in the year coming into
fill bloom in September, and having flowers with white
petals from pale green buds.

2 Drawing Sheets

1

BACKGROUND OF THE DISCLOSURE

This invention relates to Clethras and primarily to a
Clethra which is a product of crossing a seed parent *Clethra*
alnifolia ‘rosea’ with an unknown pollen parent, in a culti-
vated area in a nursery located near Plainsboro Twp., N.J.
Clethra alnifolia is a very popular shrub because of its
pleasant fragrance, attractive inflorescence and ability to
thrive in a garden environment, especially in gardens located
close to the seashore. It can even be used to form a hedge.
The *Clethra alnifolia* ‘rosea’ generally exhibits flowers with
a pink color. Its small flowers are widely evident in late July
and do not bloom after about August.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The plant of this application produces flower buds of a
pale green with flowers having white petals. Another
remarkable aspect of this plant is that it is in bloom in
September, long after all other Clethra shrubs have finished
blooming. It is a compact grower with thick dark green
foliage. Like other Clethras, the leaves turn a clear yellow in
the fall, fall colors of the leaves are: Upper surface—
Munsell Color Chart Vivid Yellow 5Y 8/12. Lower
surface—Munsell Color Chart Brilliant Yellow 5Y 9/9. This
new variety greatly extends the blooming period of one of
the choicest summer-flowering deciduous shrubs.
I have caused the plant to be asexually reproduced by soft
wood cuttings and find that it comes true in successive
generations which have been produced over time.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

This new variety of Clethra is illustrated by the accom-
panying photographic drawings and depicts the plant by the
best possible color representation using color photography.
FIG. 1 is a view showing the detail of the flower and the
buds.
FIG. 2 is a view showing flower clusters and foliage.
FIG. 3 is a view showing the entire plant.

BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANT

All color references below are measured against Munsell
Limit Color Cascade. Colors are approximate as color
depends on horticultural practices such as light level and
fertilization rate, among others.

2

Parentage:
Seed parent.—*Clethra alnifolia* ‘rosea’. The species of
the claimed Clethra plant is *Clethra alnifolia*.
Pollen parent.—The pollen was from an unknown plant
of the species *Clethra alnifolia*, i.e. open pollinated.
Shrub: Medium, upright, slowly spreading, dense, and
hardy. Many stemmed shrub, with dense branches that are
slender and smooth.
Color of branches.—Strong brown 2.5 YR 4/7. Len-
ticels not evident. Shrub grows to a size of 2.3 meters
tall and 1.4 meters wide.
Leaves:
Quantity.—Abundant.
Length.—8 to 9 cm.
Width.—3½–4 cm.
Shape.—Obovate, Acuminate, and thick.
Color.—Upper surface—Munsell Color Chart Dark
Yellowish Green 2.5G 4/6. Lower surface—Munsell
color Chart Strong Yellowish Green 2.5G 5/9.
Margin.—Moderately serrate.
Petiole.—Short 1 cm long.
Glands.—None.
Flower buds: 60 to 70 buds per main panicle, 40 to 50 buds
per side panicle. Very hardy, ovate in shape, pale green
color, and 0.4 cm in length.
Flowers: Borne in dense terminal panicles, 3 to 4 panicles
per twig and richly or intensely fragrant.
Date of first bloom.—August 20.
Date of full bloom.—September 10. Abundant and small
in size, average panicle size is 10 cm. long and 2–2½
cm. wide, as measured during blooming season,
outdoors in 1993.
Petalage:
Number of petals.—5.
Shape of petals.—Ovate.
Size of petals.—Length 0.6 cm; Width 3 cm.
Color.—Pure white, tips of stamens strong orange 2.5
YR 6/12.
Fruits: Dry dehiscent capsules, not significant.
I claim:
1. A new and distinct variety of Clethra plant as illustrated
and described herein, characterized particularly as to novelty
by its hardiness and its ability to bloom late in the year
coming into full bloom in September, and having flowers
with white petals from pale green buds.

* * * * *

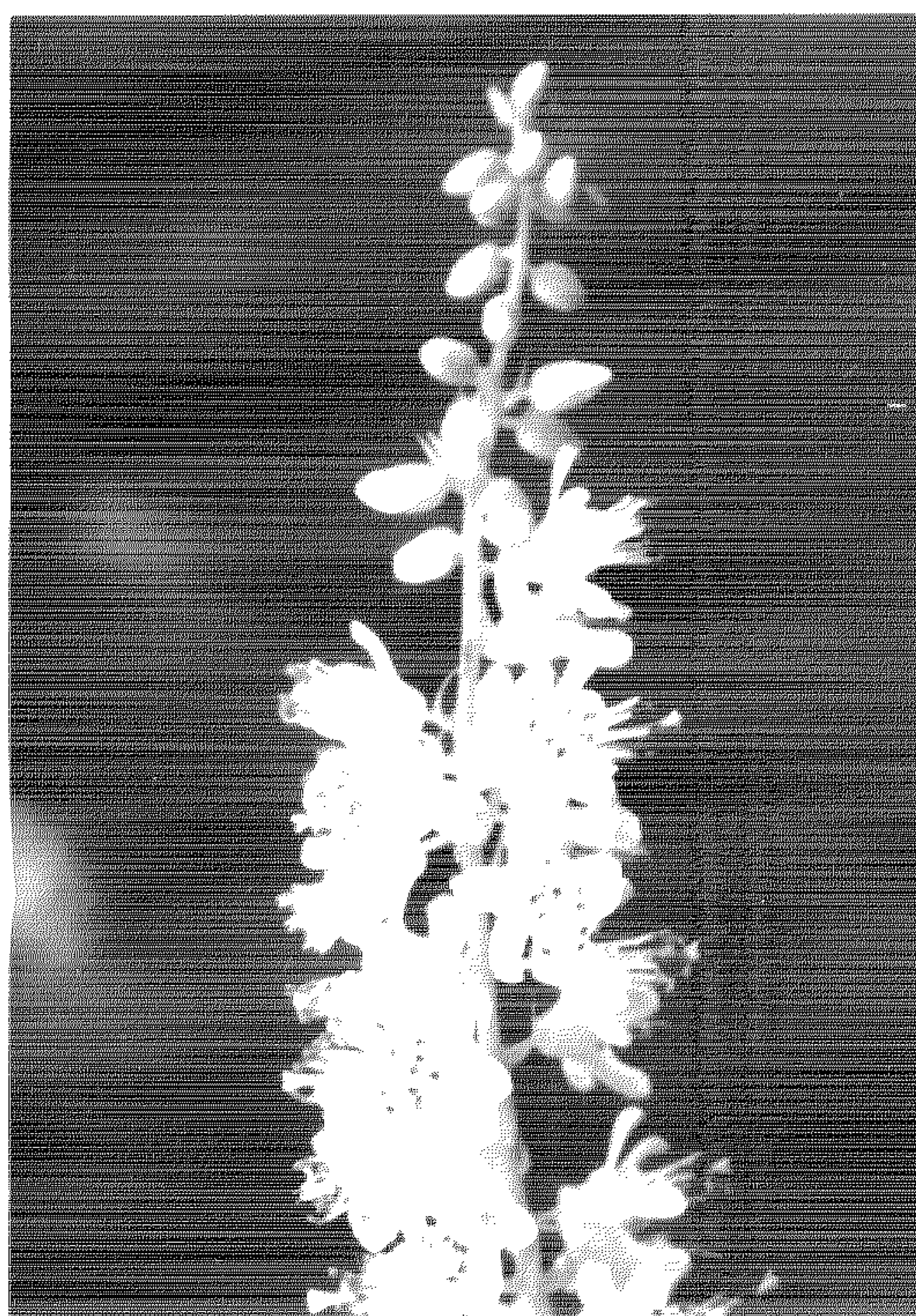


FIG. 1.



FIG. 2

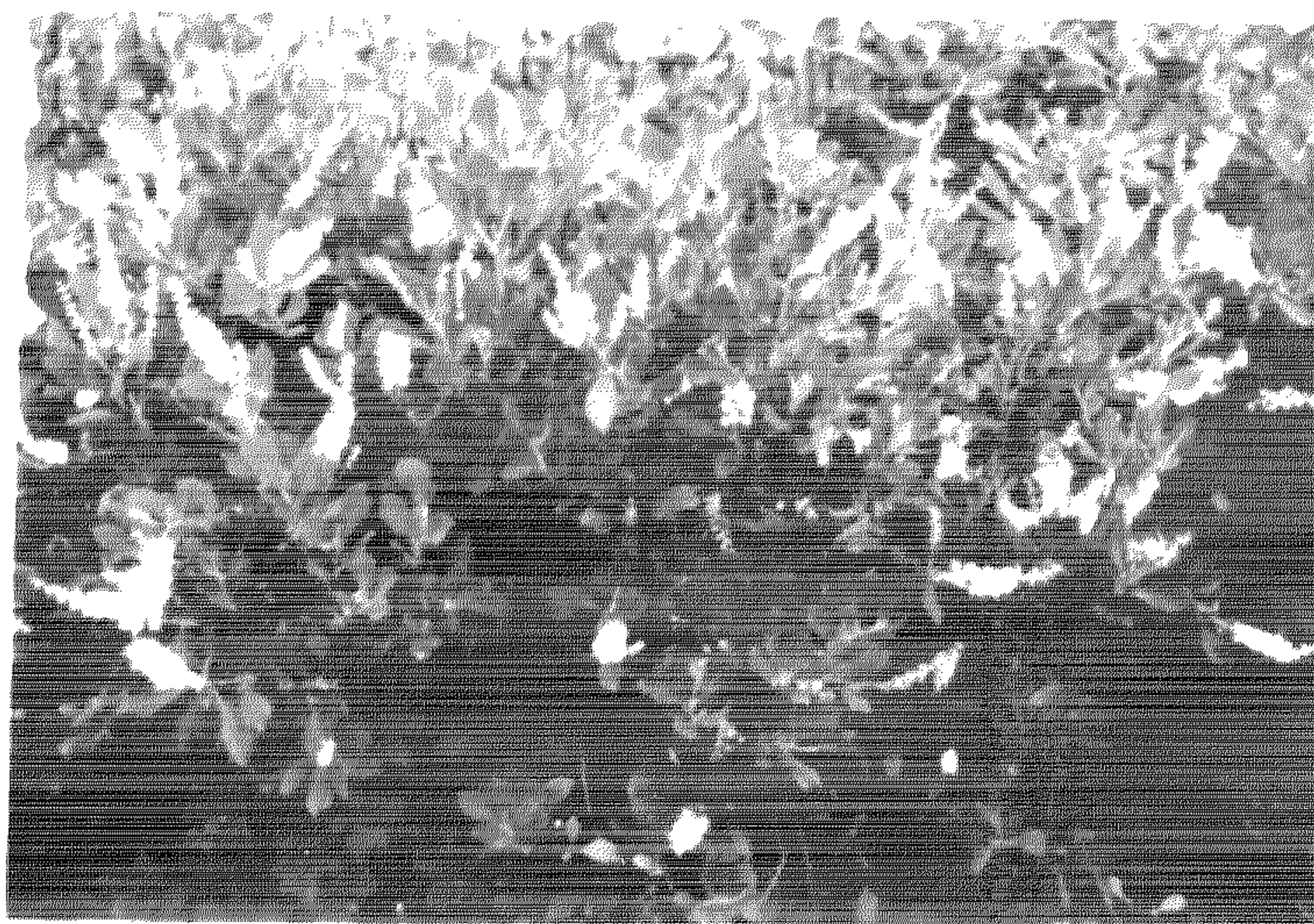


FIG. 3