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[54] CHRYSANthemum PLANT NAMED 'GEDI RA8'

[58] Field of Search Plt./298

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[57] ABSTRACT

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A new plant variety of chrysanthemum producing red daisy-type flowers.

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1 Drawing Sheet

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is directed to a new and distinct variety of chrysanthemum botanically classified as *Den-*
dranthea morifolium. The varietal denomination of the
new chrysanthemum is 'GEDI RA8'.

The new variety was discovered as natural whole plant
mutation in a controlled planting of the variety 'Alcala'
(U.S. Plant Pat. No. 10,211) in Staden, Belgium. The new
variety has been asexually reproduced by vegetative cuttings
in Ventura County, Calif. and the distinguishing character-
istics are retained through successive generations of asexual
reproduction.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

'GEDI RA8' produces red, daisy-type non-brittle, herba-
ceous flowers on a mounding perennial plant suitable for
garden decoration.

COMPARISON WITH PARENTS

'GEDI RA8' differs from its parent in having red ray
florets whereas 'Alcala' ray florets are purple.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ILLUSTRATION

The accompanying photograph shows a typical specimen
of the plant and flowers of the new variety with colors being
as nearly true as possible with illustrations of this type.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANT

The following description of the new variety is of speci-
mens grown in a greenhouse in Ventura County, Calif. in the
month of July. 'GEDI RA8' has not been observed under all
possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary
with variations in the environment such as temperature, light
intensity, day length and cultural conditions. The color
designations herein are from The Royal Horticultural Soci-
ety Colour Chart except where general terms are used.

To produce a commercial product the plants may be
pinched once about ten days after planting. It has been
observed that longevity of individual blooms of 'GEDI
RA8' is about 17 days and the response time is about 6.5
weeks. No growth retardant is used on the plants described.
Useful growing conditions include night temperatures of
about 62°–65° F. and day temperatures of about 70°–75° F.
The variety is naturally blooming mid to late September in
California.

Plant:

Habit.—Non-brittle, mounding herbaceous perennial.
Height.—About 16 cm.

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Number of breaks from pinch.—About 7–8.
Length of lateral branches.—About 14 cm.
Stem color.—Near 138B.

Foliage:

Leaf arrangement.—Alternate.
Number of leaves per lateral branch.—About 12 fully
expanded leaves.
Leaf size.—Length: About 4.2 cm. width: About 2.1
cm.
Leaf shape.—Ovate.
Attachment.—Petioled.
Leaf apex.—Acute.
Base.—Tapered.
Margin.—Palmately lobed.
Aspect.—Slightly undulating.
Surface.—Top: Lightly pubescent. Bottom: Lightly
pubescent.
Venation color.—Upperside: Near 137C. Underside:
Near 144A.

Petiole:

Length.—About 1 cm.
Color.—Near 137B.

Color:

Mature leaf.—Top: Near 137A. Bottom: Near 137C.
Young leaf.—Top: Near 137B. Bottom: Near 138B.

Bloom:

Inflorescence form.—Cyme.
Bloom type.—Daisy.
Number of blooms per branch.—About 12.
Diameter of fully expanded bloom.—About 4.5 cm.
Depth of fully expanded bloom.—About 1.2 cm.
Diameter of disc.—About 1.3 cm.
Sepal number.—About 30. Color: Near 137B.
Peduncle.—Length: Peduncle length is shortest at the
terminal flower and progressively longer moving
down the stem, the longest peduncle length is on
average about 6.5 cm, the shortest peduncle length is
on average 3.1 cm. Surface: Pubescent. Color: Near
138A.
Flower Bud (when just showing color).—Color: Near
46B. Diameter: Near 0.7 cm. Height: About 1 cm.
Shape: Oblong.

Ray florets:

Number per inflorescence.—About 30.
Texture.—Matte.
Shape.—Oblanceolate.
Apex.—Obtuse.
Base.—Tapered.
Margin.—Entire.
Aspect.—Slightly recurved.

Length.—About 2.1 cm.

Width.—About 0.4 cm.

Disc florets:

Number per inflorescence.—About 100.

Texture.—Glossy.

Shape.—Cylindric.

Margin.—Entire.

Length.—About 0.4 cm.

Width.—About 0.08 cm.

Fragrance: Moderate.

FLOWER COLOR

General inflorescence description: Red daisy with a yellow/orange disc.

Ray florets, top side:

Immature.—Near 45A.

Mature.—Near 45B.

Fading.—Near 44B.

Ray floret, under side:

Immature.—Near 45C.

Mature.—Near 45B.

Fading.—Near 44B.

Disc florets:

Immature.—Near 5B.

Mature.—Near 21B.

Fading.—Near 20A.

Changes as the flower ages: Daisy form becomes very open and abundant pollen is released. Flower color fades slightly, more orange/red tones apparent.

Reproductive organs:

Ray florets.—Pistillate. Stigma shape: 2 branched.

Stigma color: Near 2B. Style length: About 0.2 cm.

Style color: Near 1D.

Disc florets.—Stigma shape: Linear. Stigma color: Near

2B. Style Length: About 0.2 cm. Style color: Near

154D. Stamen number: About 5. Anther length:

About 0.2 cm. Pollen color: Near 15A. Pollen quan-

tity: Abundant.

What is claimed is:

1. A new and distinct chrysanthemum plant of the variety substantially as herein shown and described.

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