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[54] NEW GUINEA IMPATIENS PLANT NAMED 'MEDINA'

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[57] ABSTRACT

[73] Assignee: Klemm & Sohn, Stuttgart, Germany

A new and distinct cultivar of New Guinea Impatiens plant named 'Medina', characterized by its numerous large pure white-colored flowers that are held above the foliage; rounded growth habit; medium plant height; freely branching, dense and bushy plant habit; glossy dark green leaves; and good resistance to Botrytis.

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[51] Int. Cl.<sup>7</sup> ..... A01H 5/00

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[58] Field of Search ..... Plt./318

1 Drawing Sheet

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### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of New Guinea Impatiens plant, botanically known as *Impatiens hawkeri*, and hereinafter referred to by the cultivar name Medina.

Stuttgart, Germany, plants of the new Impatiens are more compact, have larger and more rounded flowers, and are more resistant to Botrytis than plants of the cultivar Ivrea.

The new cultivar is a product of a planned breeding program conducted by the Inventor in Stuttgart, Germany. The objective of the breeding program was to develop varieties with good branching, early flowering, floriferousness, attractive flower color, large round flowers, and Botrytis resistance.

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH

The accompanying colored photograph illustrates the overall appearance of the new cultivar, showing the colors as true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in colored reproductions of this type. The photograph comprises a top perspective view of a typical plant of 'Medina'. Flower and foliage colors in the photographs may differ from the actual colors due to light reflectance.

The new cultivar originated from a cross made by the Inventor of the New Guinea Impatiens selection identified as A 073, not patented, as the male, or pollen parent, with the New Guinea Impatiens selection identified as K 021, not patented, as the female, or seed parent.

### DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

Plants of the cultivar Medina have not been observed under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in environment such as temperature and light intensity, without, however, any variance in genotype. The following observations, measurements and comparisons describe plants grown in Stuttgart, Germany, under greenhouse and outdoor production practices.

The cultivar Medina was discovered and selected by the Inventor in 1995 as a flowering plant within the progeny of the stated cross in a controlled environment in Stuttgart, Germany.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by terminal cuttings taken at Stuttgart, Germany, has shown that the unique features of this new Impatiens are stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations of asexual reproduction.

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.

### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and are determined to be the unique characteristics of 'Medina'. These characteristics in combination distinguish 'Medina' as a new and distinct cultivar:

1. Numerous large pure white-colored flowers that are held above the foliage.
2. Rounded growth habit and medium plant height.
3. Freely branching, dense and bushy plant habit.
4. Glossy, dark green leaves.
5. Good resistance to Botrytis.

Compared to plants of the male parent, the while selection identified as A 073, plants of the new Impatiens are much more resistant to Botrytis. Compared to plants of the female parent, the while selection identified as K 021, plants of the new Impatiens flower earlier, grow faster, have more and large flowers and darker green foliage.

Plants of the new Impatiens are similar in flower color to plants of the nonpatented New Guinea Impatiens cultivar Ivrea. However, in side-by-side comparisons conducted in

- Classification:
- Botanical.*—*Impatiens hawkeri* cultivar Medina.
  - Commercial.*—New Guinea Impatiens cultivar Medina.
- Parentage:
- Male parent.*—*Impatiens hawkeri* selection identified as A 073.
  - Female parent.*—*Impatiens hawkeri* selection identified as K 021.
- Propagation:
- Type cutting.*—Terminal cuttings.
  - Time to initiate and develop roots.*—About 16 days.
- Plant description:
- Crop time (precocity).*—From rooted cuttings to flowering, about 80 to 90 days are required.
  - Plant form.*—Rounded growth habit, plants appear almost spherical; upright yet spreading.
  - Growth habit.*—Moderately vigorous. Freely branching, dense and bushy growth. Appropriate for 10 to 25-cm containers.
  - Plant size.*—Height, about 16 cm; spread, about 29 cm.

*Lateral stems.*—Quantity: About 12 basal branches; each basal branch with about 1 or 2 lateral stems. Length: About 16 cm.

*Foliage description.*—Medium to large-sized leaves; simple, generally symmetrical, moderate in quantity, opposite or in whorls, usually flat. Shape: Oblong-lanceolate; margin, shallow serration. Texture: Smooth, glossy. Color: Upper surface: 139A; venation, main veins, 145C, and lateral veins, 138B. Lower surface: 138C; venation, 138B. Petiole length: About 1.2 to 1.5 cm.

Flower description:

*Flower type and habit.*—Large pure white-colored flowers. Early and freely flowering; usually about 24 flowers per plant. Single flowers arranged in clusters arising from leaf axils. Flowers positioned above the foliage and face upward and outward. Flower shape is rounded. Flowers not persistent.

*Flowering season.*—Year-round under greenhouse conditions. In the garden, flowering is continuous from spring until fall.

*Flower longevity.*—About 10 to 14 days on the plant; about 1 to 2 days as a cut flower.

*Flower size.*—Diameter: About 6.8 cm. Depth: About 1 cm.

*Flower buds.*—Length: About 1.3 cm. Diameter: About 8 mm. Shape: Ovoid. Color: 157A.

*Petals.*—Quantity: Five. Shape: Cordate with acute base and entire margin. Texture: Satiny, smooth. Color: Fully opened, upper surface; 155D. Fully opened, lower surface: 155D.

*Sepals.*—Three, lower sepal spurred. Color, lateral sepals: Inside: 147D. Outside: 141D. Color, spurred sepal: Inside: Base, 155D; towards apex, 141D. Outside: Base, 155D; towards apex, 141D.

*Peduncles.*—Length: About 3.8 cm. Angle: About 45° to stem. Strength: Very stiff, strong. Color: Light green.

*Reproductive organs.*—Androecium: Stamen number: Five, anthers fused, filaments free. Anther shape: Obovate. Pollen color: Cream. Gynoecium: Five-loculate fused. Style length: About 4.5 mm. Style color: Green. Stigma color: Cream.

*Fruit.*—Green, pulpy explosive capsule.

*Seed.*—Brown, about 2 to 3 mm in length.

Disease resistance: Under commercial conditions, good resistance to *Botrytis* has been observed.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of New Guinea *Impatiens* plant named 'Medina', as illustrated and described.

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