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Konishi

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[54] DELPHINIUM PLANT NAME ‘PLAGU
LIGHT PURPLE’
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[57] ABSTRACT
The present invention relates to a new and distinct garden
variety of delphinium. This delphinium, denominated ‘Plagu
Light Purple’, is a mutant derived from a delphinium variety
‘Plagu Blue’. The present delphinium is characterized by its
sepals assuming a vivid purple color with a dash of blue.

2 Drawing Sheets

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Delphiniums are garden plants belonging to the family
Ranunculaceae, and they flower around June to August
under natural conditions in the open air.
Delphinium flowers have a variety of colors including
blue, white and cream. The major color is blue. Since
delphiniums prefer a cool and dry climate, they are culti-
vated in England and in California, the United States for use
as garden flowers or cut flowers. However, the introduction
of delphinium cultivation has hardly been successful in the
southwestern warm area of Japan where the climate is hot
and humid.
Because of their vivid colors, the demand for delphiniums
has been greatly increased in recent years. In response to this
increase in demand, various new varieties have been bred.
However, the new varieties have not necessarily satisfied the
demand sufficiently and the breeding of more attractive new
varieties is desired.
The present invention has been made to meet such
demand. It is the object of the present invention to provide
a new and distinct variety of delphinium.
The breeding of the delphinium of the invention was
carried out at the present inventor’s farm located at 55, 3520,
Tokiwa, Ohmachi City, Nagano Pref., Japan and the Applied
Plant Research Laboratory of Japan Tobacco Inc. located at
Ohaza-Idei 1900, Oyama City, Tochigi Pref., Japan from
1995 through 1997. The delphinium of the present invention
occurred as a naturally occurring branch mutation of
unknown origin. The present delphinium is a hybrid of
Delphinium belladonne and *Delphinium elatum*.
In 1995, the inventor found among delphinium plants of
‘Plagu Blue’ (unpatented) obtained from cultured tissue a
mutant whose sepals assumed a purple color with a dash of
vivid blue that was different from the color of sepals in
‘Plagu Blue’ (i.e., a dark blue color with a dash of purple).
The axillary buds of this mutant were collected and grown
by tissue culture. The resultant young plants were planted in
October, 1996. Thereafter, flowering inspection of these
plants obtained from cultured tissue was performed in
January, 1997 to thereby confirm that their characteristics
are stable. Thus, the breeding has been completed.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The most remarkable characteristic of the delphinium of
the invention is that its sepals assume a purple color with a
dash of vivid blue.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a photograph showing an inflorescence
(flowering stalk) of the delphinium of the invention as a
whole.
FIG. 2 is a photograph showing the flower portion of the
delphinium of the invention.

BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

Plant Body

The plant type falls under “upright” when classified into
“upright”, “medium” or “wide spreading”. The plant height
is about 150.5 cm, which is rather tall among delphiniums.

Stem

The stem is about 81.5 cm in length, which is rather long
among delphiniums. The stem is about 0.9 cm in diameter.
The stem has hair assuming a grayish green color (Japanese
Horticultural Standard, JHS Color Chart No. 3513, Royal
Horticultural Society, R.H.S., Colour Chart No. 144-B mod-
erate yellow green).

Leaf

The average number of leaves per individual stem at the
time of flowering is about 24.0. The leaf length is about 19.5
cm; the leaf width is about 22.0 cm; and the leaf thickness
is about 0.4 mm. The leaf width is rather wide among
delphiniums. Each leaf has a petiole about 11.5 cm in length,
which is rather long among delphiniums. There is hair at the
leaf edge. The leaf surface has a dark green color (JHS Color
Chart No. 3708, R.H.S. Colour Chart No. 139-A dk. olive
green), and the leaf undersurface has a grayish green color
(JHS Color Chart No. 3715, R.H.S. Colour Chart No.
137-B). The leaves have a compound, irregularly, deeply
serrated palmate shape. The margin of the leaves is entire
with a fine cilium that can be felt with the hand and the
venation is pinnate and green in color.

Flower

The inflorescence is about 68.0 cm in length, which is
rather long among delphiniums, and is about 15.5 cm in
width. The average number of florets borne on each inflo-
rescence is about 25.5. This density is rather low among
delphiniums.

The flowering type falls under “normal type” when classified into “normal type” (wherein the florets are open) or “holding type” (wherein the florets are more closed). The flower form falls under “single flowered” when classified into “single flowered”, “semi-double flowered” or “double flowered”. The total diameter size of the calyx is about 5.0 cm. The length of pedicel is about 9.0 cm, which is rather long among delphiniums. The color of the pedicel is moderate yellow green, JHS Color Chart No. 3513, R.H.S. Colour Chart No. 144-A.

The number of sepals is about 5.0, which number is rather small among delphiniums. Sepals have no hair. The whole shape of the outermost sepals falls under “oval” when classified into “linear”, “elliptical”, “oblong”, “rhombate”, “oval” or “orbicular”. The outermost sepal is about 2.6 cm in length and about 1.8 cm in width. The surface of the outermost sepal has a vivid purple color, more specifically, the color classified as No. 8306 in JHS Color Chart, which corresponds to R.H.S. Colour Chart No. 89-B. The coloring of green at the tip of the undersurface of the outermost sepal is definite. The sepal spur is about 1.5 cm in length, which is rather short among delphiniums, and about 0.7 cm in diameter, which is rather thick among delphiniums.

The sepal spur has a brilliant purple color, more specifically, the color classified as No. 8305 in JHS Color Chart, which corresponds to R.H.S. Colour Chart No. 90-C.

The average number of petals is about 2.0, which is rather small among delphiniums. Each petal has a spur. The color

of the petals is mainly vivid purple (JHS Color Chart No. 8306, R.H.S. Colour Chart No. 89-B) and brilliant yellow (JHS Color Chart No. 2204, R.H.S. Colour Chart No. 13-A) and light yellow (JHS Color Chart No. 2503, R.H.S. Colour Chart No. 4-D) are included as secondary colors. The hair on the petal surface has a yellow color. The anther has a greenish brown color. The flowers have no fragrance.

Reproductive Organs

The florets of the present delphinium have 32 stamens and an elliptically shaped anther. The stigma is Y-shaped and light yellow in color (JHS Colour Chart No. 2504, R.H.S. Colour Chart No. 4-C). The style is brilliant yellow in color (JHS Color Chart No. 2204, R.H.S. Colour Chart No. 15-B).

Other

The delphinium of the invention is a perennial and is propagated by tissue culture. The time of flowering is rather early among delphiniums. Flowers are resistant to dropping. Both the cold tolerance and heat tolerance of this delphinium are medium. Both the disease resistance and insect resistance of this delphinium are strong. The present delphinium begins flowering in May or June and continues to flower through September, in Japan.

We claim:

1. A new and distinct delphinium plant as substantially illustrated and described herein.

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FIGURE 1



FIGURE 2