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**Meilland**

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(54) **MINIATURE ROSE PLANT NAMED**  
**'MEIBORCO'**

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(56) **References Cited**

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

PP9,973 P \* 7/1997 Meilland ..... Plt./122

\* cited by examiner

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct variety of rose plant of the dwarf  
Miniature Class is provided which abundantly forms attrac-  
tive double dark red blossoms that sometimes appear to be  
nearly black in coloration. The growth habit is low compact  
and bushy. Decorative very dense medium green semi-  
glossy foliage is formed that contrasts nicely with the dark  
red blossoms. The new variety is well suited for pot forcing  
under greenhouse growing conditions.

**1 Drawing Sheet**

**1**

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

The new variety of *Rosa hybrida* Miniature rose plant was  
created by artificial pollination wherein two parents were  
crossed which previously had been studied in the hope that  
they would contribute the desired characteristics. The  
female parent (i.e., the seed parent) of the new variety was  
the 'Meikanrou' variety (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 9,973). The  
male parent (i.e., the pollen parent) was the product of the  
pollination of the 'Meijikatar' variety (U.S. Plant Pat. No.  
4,682) and the 'Ruimered' variety (U.S. Plant Pat. No.  
5,770). The parentage of the new variety can be summarized  
as follows:

'Meikanrou' x ('Meijikatar' x 'Ruimered').

The seeds resulting from the above pollination were sown  
and small plants were obtained which were physically and  
biologically different from each other. Selective study  
resulted in the identification of a single plant of the new  
variety.

It was found the new variety of Miniature rose plant of the  
present invention possesses the following combination of  
characteristics:

- (a) exhibits a low compact and bushy growth habit,
- (b) forms in abundance attractive double dark red  
blossoms,
- (c) forms decorative very dense medium green semi-  
glossy foliage, and
- (d) is well suited for pot forcing.

The dark red blossoms sometimes appear to be nearly  
black and contrast nicely with the dense medium green  
foliage.

The new variety well meets the needs of the horticultural  
industry. It is particularly well suited for pot forcing under  
greenhouse growing conditions to form a distinctive gift  
plant.

The new variety has been found to undergo asexual  
propagation in France by a number of routes, including

**2**

budding, grafting, and cuttage. Asexual propagation by the  
above-mentioned methods as performed in the South of  
France has shown that the characteristics of the new variety  
are strictly transmissible from one generation to another.

The new variety has been named the 'Meiborco' variety.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH**

The accompanying photograph shows as nearly true as it  
is reasonably possible to make the same, in a color illustra-  
tion of this character, typical specimens of the plant parts of  
the new variety. The rose plants of the new variety were one  
year of age and were observed during April while growing  
on their own roots in greenhouses at LeCannet des Maures,  
Var, France. Dimensions in centimeters are shown at the  
bottom of the photograph.

FIG. 1—illustrates a specimen of a young shoot;

FIG. 2—illustrates specimens of three floral buds before  
the opening of the sepals;

FIG. 3—illustrates a specimen of a floral bud at the  
opening of the sepals;

FIG. 4—illustrates a specimen of a floral bud at the  
opening of the petals;

FIG. 5—illustrates a specimen of a flower during the  
course of opening;

FIG. 6—illustrates a specimen of an open flower—plan  
view—reverse;

FIG. 7—illustrates a specimen of an open flower—plan  
view—obverse;

FIG. 8—illustrates a specimen of a fully open flower—  
plan view—reverse;

FIG. 9—illustrates a specimen of a fully open flower—  
plan view—obverse;

FIG. 10—illustrates a specimen of a floral receptacle  
showing the arrangement of the stamens and pistils;

FIG. 11—illustrates a specimen of a floral receptacle  
showing the arrangement of the pistils (stamens removed);

FIG. 12—illustrates a specimen of a flowering stem;

FIG. 13—illustrates a specimen of a main branch;

FIG. 14—illustrates a specimen of a leaf with three leaflets—plan view—upper surface;

FIG. 15—illustrates a specimen of a leaf with five leaflets—plan view—under surface; and

FIG. 16—illustrates a specimen of a leaf with seven leaflets—plan view—upper surface.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The chart used in the identification of the colors is that of The Royal Horticultural Society (R.H.S. Colour Chart). The terminology which precedes reference to the chart has been added in some instances to indicate the corresponding colors in more common terms. The description is based on the observation of six month old specimens of the new variety which were observed during November while growing on their own roots in greenhouses at LeCannet des Maures, Var, France.

Class: Dwarf Miniature.

Plant:

*Height.*—Approximately 20 to 25 cm. on average at the end of the growing season.

*Habit.*—Bushy.

Branches:

*Color.*—Young stems: near Yellow-Green Group 146A.

*Thorns.*—Size: medium. Quantity: sparse as illustrated.

Color: greenish on young stems, near Yellow-Green Group 153C. Configuration: fairly straight and elongated on the upper surface.

Leaves:

*Petioles.*—Upper surface: non-glandular, and near Green Group 139B in coloration. Under surface: smooth.

*Stipules.*—Adnate, pectinate, and rather broad.

*Leaflets.*—Number: 3, 5, and 7 (most often). Shape: with a symmetrical tip and a generally obtuse base (as illustrated). Texture: consistent. Serration: regular. General appearance: very dense, medium green and semi-glossy. Color (young and mature foliage): Upper surface: near Yellow-Green Group 144A. Under surface: near Green Group 138A.

Inflorescence:

*Number of flowers.*—Commonly approximately 2 to 5 per stem.

*Peduncle.*—Short, rigid, smooth, near Yellow-Green Group 144A, and the length commonly is approximately 2.5 to 3 cm on average.

*Sepals.*—Upper surface: greenish, near Yellow-Green Group 144B and 144C. Under surface: near Yellow-Green Group 144A. Shape: with weak extensions.

*Buds.*—Shape: conical. Size: small for class, and approximately 1 cm in length.

*Flower.*—Form: double and cup-shaped.

*Diameter:* approximately 3 cm on average when fully open. Color (when opening begins): Upper surface: near Cardinal Red, Red Group 53A and darker. Under surface: near Cardinal Red, Red Group 53A. Color (when blooming): Upper surface: near Currant Red, Red Group 46A and lightly suffused with Red Group 53A. Under surface: near Currant Red, Red Group 46A and lightly suffused with Red Group 53A. Color (at end of opening): Upper surface: near Currant Red, Red Group 46A and lightly suffused with Red Group 53A. Under surface: near Currant Red, Red Group 46A and lightly suffused with Red Group 53A. Fragrance: none. Anthers: near Yellow-Orange Group 17D in coloration. Stamen number: approximately 18 on average. Filaments: near Yellow-Orange Group 17D in coloration. Pistil number: approximately 22 on average. Petal configuration: wedge-shaped base and a reflexed tip. Stigmas: whitish in coloration. Styles: near Red Group 46D. Receptacle: medium green, near Yellow-Green Group 144A, and in longitudinal section in the shape of a pitcher. Lasting quality: long, approximately 10 days on the plant. Petal drop: good, the petals detach well.

Development:

*Vegetation.*—Medium.

*Blooming.*—Very abundant.

*Resistance to diseases.*—Medium.

*Ability to bear fruit.*—None.

I claim:

1. A new and distinct variety of Miniature rose plant characterized by the following combination of characteristics:

- (a) Exhibits a low compact and bushy growth habit,
  - (b) Forms in abundance attractive double dark red blossoms,
  - (c) Forms decorative very dense medium green semi-glossy foliage, and
  - (d) Is well suited for pot forcing;
- substantially as herein shown and described.

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