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(54) **STRAWBERRY PLANT NAMED
'CANTERBURY'**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

This invention relates to a new and distinct variety of
strawberry named 'Canterbury'. The variety is similar to the
varieties 'Coronada' and 'San Miguel'. The variety is dis-
tinguished from 'Coronado' and 'San Miguel', in particular,
by its upright to globose habit, very strong plant vigor, high
density, obtuse shape of the terminal leaflet base, medium to
dense petiole pubescence, its inflorescence being positioned
level with the leaves, very slight to slight difference in the
shapes of the primary and secondary fruits, absent or very
weak unevenness of surface, strong sweetness, and fine
texture when tasted.

2 Drawing Sheets

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The new variety originated as a result of a controlled cross
between the strawberry plants '9A264' (unpatented variety)
and 'Balboa' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 9,130) in an ongoing
breeding program, and was discovered as a seedling in a
controlled breeding plot, in Ventura County, Calif. in Feb-
ruary 1996. The original seedling of the new cultivar was
asexually propagated by stolons in McArthur, Shasta
County, Calif. 'Canterbury' was subsequently asexually
propagated and underwent further testing in Ventura County,
Calif. for three years. This propagation and testing has
demonstrated that the combination of traits disclosed herein
which characterize the new variety are fixed and retained
true to type through successive generations of asexual
reproduction.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct variety
of strawberry named 'Canterbury'. The variety is botani-
cally identified as *Fragaria x ananassa*. The new variety is
distinguished from other varieties by a number of charac-
teristics as set forth in Tables 1-6.

COMPARISON TO SIMILAR VARIETIES

The varieties which we believe to be similar to 'Canter-
bury' from those known to us are 'Coronado' (U.S. Plant Pat.
No. 10,221) and 'San Miguel' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 10,642).
There are several characteristics of the new variety that are
different from, or not possessed by 'Coronado' and 'San
Miguel'. The new variety has an upright to globose habit,
very strong plant vigor, high density, obtuse shape of the
terminal leaflet base, medium to dense petiole pubescence,
its inflorescence positioned level with the leaves, very slight
to slight difference in the shapes of the primary and sec-
ondary fruits, absent or very weak unevenness of surface,
strong sweetness, and fine texture when tasted.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying photographs show typical specimens
of the new variety, including fruit, foliage and flowers, in
color as nearly true as it is reasonably possible to make in
color illustrations of these characteristics.

FIG. 1 shows the whole plant.

FIG. 2 shows typical whole fruit.

DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW VARIETY

The following detailed description of the new variety is
based upon observations taken of plants and fruit grown in
Ventura County, Calif., U.S.A. Observations of
'Canterbury', 'Coronado' and 'San Miguel' were taken in
side by side comparison in 1999. This description is in
accordance with UPOV terminology. Color designations,
color descriptions, and other phenotypical descriptions may
deviate from the stated values and descriptions depending
upon variation in environmental, seasonal, climatic and
cultural conditions. Colors are described and the most simi-
lar color designations are provided from The Royal Horti-
cultural Society (R.H.S.) Colour Chart.

PROPAGATION

The new variety is principally propagated by way of
stolons. Although propagation by stolons is presently
preferred, other known methods of propagating strawberry
plants may be employed.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE NEW VARIETY

Information on the new variety is presented in Tables 1,
2 and 3. In the tables, the flowers described are secondary
flowers except where indicated. The petal color of 'Canter-
bury' is white which is not referenced in The R.H.S. Colour
Chart. The fruit described is the secondary fruit on one year
old plants. Fruit and flower measurements are an average of
both primary and secondary fruit and flowers.

Table 1 provides information on the plant and fruit characteristics of the new variety 'Canterbury' compared with characteristics of 'Coronado' and 'San Miguel'. Table 2 provides additional information of the plant and fruit characteristics of the new variety 'Canterbury' compared with characteristics of the varieties 'Coronado' and 'San Miguel'. Table 3 provides reactions of the new variety to stresses as compared to the varieties 'Coronado' and 'San Miguel'. The average number of stamens is 29. Anthocyanin pigment on various plant origins is red to purple red in color. The average number of pedicels/peduncle is 5.6. The average diameter of a peduncle is 5.4 mm. The average length of a peduncle is 24.9 cm. The average pedicel diameter is 1.9 mm. The average length of the pedicels is 9.8 cm. The average petiole diameter is 4.1 mm. Achene color is red to yellow-green (46A to 151B). The average sepal number is 11.3 and average sepal size is 1.05 cm. Typical sugar content, as measured by total soluble solids, is 9.5% to 10.5%. An abundant amount of pollen produced. Tables 4 and 5 provide information of the new variety's reaction to pests and diseases, respectively, compared to the varieties 'Coronado' and 'San Miguel'. Table 6 provides isozyme characteristics of the new variety as compared to the varieties 'Coronado' and 'San Miguel'.

TABLE 1

DETAILED COMPARISON OF 'CANTERBURY', 'CORONADO', AND 'SAN MIGUEL'			
	Canterbury	Coronado	San Miguel
<u>Plant Characteristics</u>			
Height of Plant (cm)	30.2	39.8	30.3
Spread of Plant (cm)	43.6	42.2	37.2
Number of Crowns	4.9	4.5	3.1
<u>Leaf Characteristics</u>			
Terminal Leaflet Width (cm)	9.1	7.7	7.9
Terminal Leaflet Length (cm)	8.8	8.5	7.3
Terminal Leaflet Length/Width Ratio	0.97	1.1	0.93
Number of Teeth/Terminal Leaflet	24.7	20.1	22.7
Petiole Length (cm)	16.7	22.0	22.6
Bract Frequency	0%	10%	10%
	Typically Single	Typically single	Typically Single
Stipule Length (cm)	3.3	3.9	3.7
Stipule Width (cm)	1.1	1.3	1.0
<u>Flower Characteristics</u>			
Petal Width (cm)	1.5	1.6	1.6
Petal Length (cm)	1.6	1.7	1.6
Petal Length/Width Ratio	0.95	0.95	0.98
Flower Diameter (cm)	3.7	4.2	4.1
Calyx Diameter (cm)	4.6	6.0	4.9
<u>Fruit Characteristics</u>			
Fruit Width (cm)	4.2	4.4	4.4
Fruit Length (cm)	4.8	4.8	5.1
Fruit Length/Width Ratio	1.14	1.09	1.16
Average Berry Size (g)	20.7	23.8	25.3
Fruit Skin Color	Orange red 46A	Dark red 46A	Dark red 46A
Fruit Flesh Color	Red 42A	Orange red 43A	Dark red 45B
Total Yield (g/plant)	522	526	482

TABLE 2

CHARACTERISTICS OF 'CATERBURY', 'CORONADO', AND 'SAN MIGUEL'			
	Canterbury	Coronado	San Miguel
<u>Plant</u>			
Habit	upright to globose	flat globose	globose to flat globose
Density	dense	open to medium	open
Vigor	very strong	strong	medium to strong
<u>Leaf</u>			
Color of upper side	Green 137A	Dark Green 147A	Green 137A
Color of under side	Light grey green 138C	Light grey green 147C	Light grey green 138C
Shape in cross section	concave	concave	concave
Interveinal blistering	strong	medium strong	strong
Glossiness	weak	weak	weak to medium
Number of leaflets	3 on 90% of leaves; 4 on 10% of leaves	3	3
Terminal leaflet margin profile	flat	flat	revolute to flat
Terminal leaflet shape of base	obtuse	obtuse to rounded	rounded
Terminal leaflet shape of teeth	obtuse	obtuse	obtuse
Petiole pubescence	medium to dense	medium	medium
Petiole pose of hairs	upwards to outwards	upwards	upwards to outwards
<u>Stolon</u>			
Number	medium to many	medium	many
Anthocyanin coloration	weak to medium	strong	strong
Thickness	medium	thin	thin to medium
Pubescence	medium	sparse	sparse to medium
<u>Inflorescence</u>			
Position relative to foliage	level	above	above
Diameter of calyx relative to corolla	same size to larger	same size to larger	smaller
Diameter of inner calyx relative to outer	same size to larger	larger	same size to larger
Spacing of petals	overlapping	overlapping	touching to overlapping
<u>Fruiting Truss</u>			
Attitude at first picking	erect	semi-erect to prostrate	prostrate
Length (cm)	16.4	28.6	25.3

TABLE 2-continued

CHARACTERISTICS OF 'CATERBURY', 'CORONADO', AND 'SAN MIGUEL'			
	Canterbury	Coronado	San Miguel
<u>Fruit</u>			
Predominant shape	conical to cordate	conical to almost cylindrical	conical to cordate
Difference in shapes between primary and secondary fruits	very slight to slight	moderate	marked
Band without achenes	absent or very narrow	narrow	narrow to medium
Unevenness of surface	absent or very weak	weak to medium	medium
Evenness of color	even	even	even
Glossiness	medium	strong	medium to strong
Insertion of achenes	level with surface	level with surface	level with surface
Insertion of calyx	level	in a basin to level	set above
Pose of the calyx segments	spreading to reflexed	spreading to reflexed	reflexed
Size of calyx in relation to fruit	larger	larger	same size to larger
Firmness of flesh	medium to firm	firm	medium to firm
Evenness of flesh color	slightly uneven	slightly uneven	slightly uneven
Distribution of flesh color	marginal and central	marginal and central	marginal and central
Hollow center size	small to medium	small to medium	small to medium
Sweetness	strong	weak	medium
Texture when tasted	fine	fine to medium	medium
Acidity	weak	strong	strong
Time of Flowering	early	early to medium	early
Time of Fruiting	early	early to medium	early
Time of Bearing	partially everbearing	partially everbearing	partially everbearing

REACTION TO STRESS

TABLE 3

	Canterbury	Coronado	San Miguel
<u>Reaction to Stress</u>			
high pH	Moderately Resistant	Moderately Resistant	Moderately Resistant
high soil salt levels	Moderately Resistant	Moderately Resistant	Moderately Resistant

PEST AND DISEASE RESISTANCE AND SUSCEPTIBILITY

TABLE 4

	Canterbury	Coronado	San Miguel
<u>Reaction to Pests</u>			
<i>Tetranychus urticae</i>	susceptible	susceptible	susceptible
Aphis spp.	susceptible	susceptible	susceptible
<i>Lygus hesperus</i>	susceptible	susceptible	susceptible

TABLE 5

	Canterbury	Coronado	San Miguel
<u>Reaction to Diseases</u>			
Bortrytis fruit rot	moderately resistant	susceptible	highly susceptible
Powdery mildew	moderately resistant	moderately resistant	moderately resistant
Verticillium wilt	highly susceptible	susceptible	highly susceptible
Strawberry Mottle Virus	moderately resistant	moderately resistant	moderately resistant
Xanthomonas fragariae	susceptible	susceptible	susceptible

ISOZYME ANALYSIS

In addition to the morphological description above, the new cultivar 'Canterbury' has been analyzed to obtain an indication of its genetic makeup to provide further means for identifying the new variety and distinguishing it from some other somewhat similar and/or related strawberry varieties. Specifically, leaf samples of 'Canterbury', 'Coronado', and 'San Miguel' were analyzed by electrophoresis for isozyme patterns of the enzymes phosphoglucoisomerase (PGI), leucine aminopeptidase (LAP) and phosphoglucomutase (PGM). See *J. Amer. Soc. Hort. Sci.* 106:684-687. Isozyme characterization of the three varieties is presented in Table 4, with the letters representing the banding patterns for each enzyme as designated in the above-identified article.

TABLE 6

ISOZYME ANALYSIS FOR 'CANTERBURY', 'CORONADO', AND 'SAN MIGUEL'			
Locus	Canterbury	Coronado	San Miguel
PGI	A3	A2	A4
LAP	B3	B3	B3
PGM	C3	C4	C2

What is claimed is:

1. A new and distinct variety of strawberry plant, substantially as shown and described.

* * * * *



Fig. 1

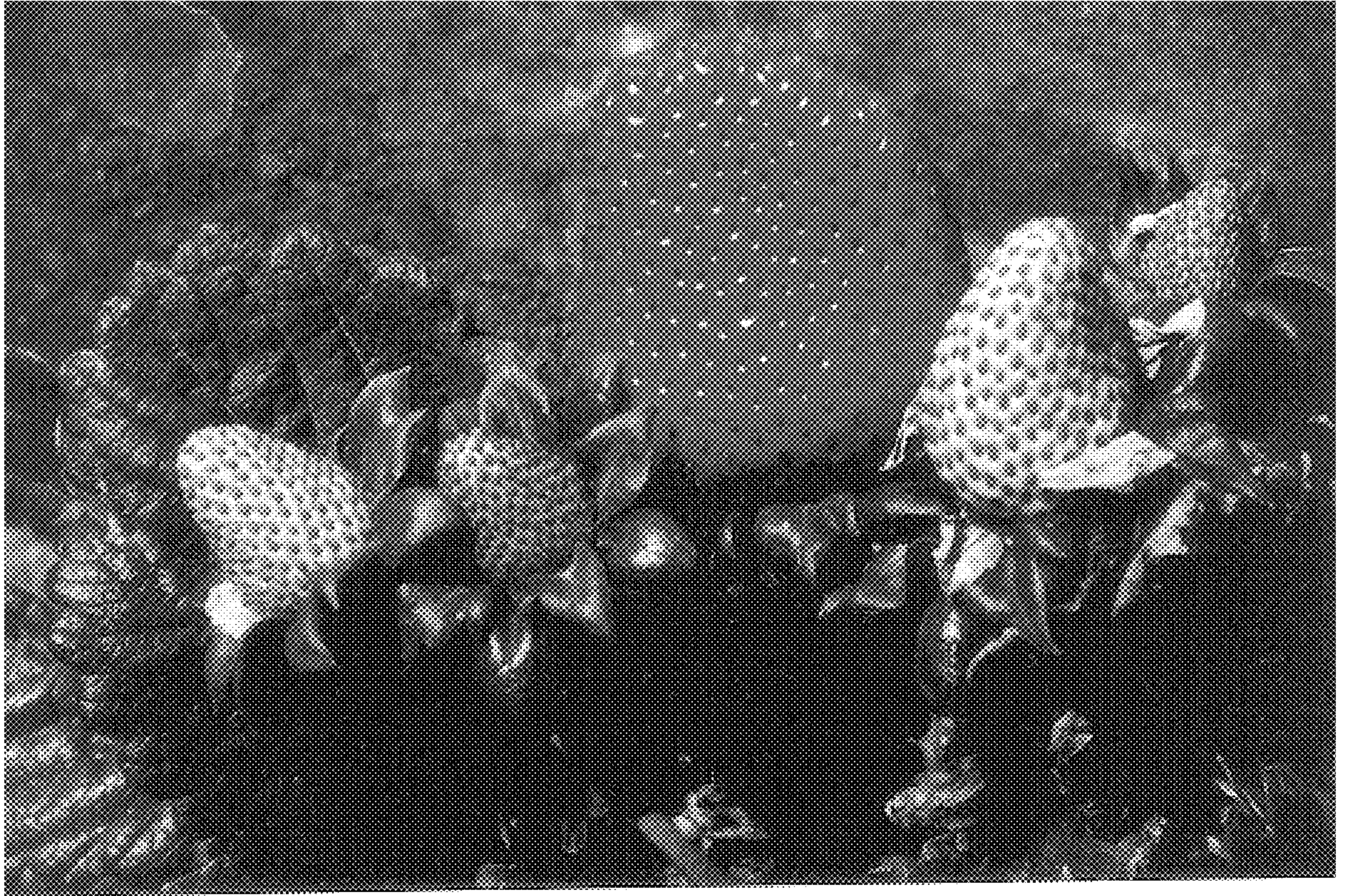


Fig. 2