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(54) **BIRCH TREE NAMED ‘UENCI’**
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patent is extended or adjusted under 35
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(57) **ABSTRACT**
A new and distinct cultivar of *Betula papyrifera* named
‘Uenci’ characterized by its narrow, open, vigorous and
upright growth habit, fast growth rate; semi-exfoliating bark
when mature and very high tolerance to the Bronze Birch
Borer.

4 Drawing Sheets

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The present invention comprises a new and distinct cul-
tivar of a birch tree, botanically known as *Betula papyrifera*,
and is hereto referred to by the cultivar name “Uenci”.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

‘Uenci’ was discovered by the inventor in a group *Betula*
papyrifera in a provenance test plot planted in Wooster, Ohio,
in 1986. ‘Uenci’ was originated from the open pollinated
cross in a birch selection/breeding program on Evergreen
Nursery Company, Inc., property in Sturgeon Bay, Wis. The
female parent was *Betula papyrifera*. The pollen parent was
Betula papyrifera. ‘Uenci’ was first noticed with a narrow,
open, vigorous, upright growth habit, white semi-exfoliating
bark and a very high resistance to the Bronze Birch Borer.
The upright and open growth of the crown facilitates clump-
ing of the trees. The open growth further allows for grass to
grow under the tree since more sunlight can penetrate the
ground. The cultivar has been asexually reproduced in
Sturgeon Bay, Wis. The current propagation is by micro-
propagation at Sturgeon Bay, Wis. Horticultural examination
of selected units has demonstrated that the combination of
characteristics as herein disclosed for ‘Uenci’ are firmly
fixed and retained through its successive generations of
asexual reproduction. ‘Uenci’ has been observed in Sturgeon
Bay, Wis. and Wooster, Ohio, since 1986 and characteristics
have been stably maintained. The cultivar reproduces true to
type. The new cultivar has not been observed under all
possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary
somewhat with variations in environment such as
temperature, day length and light intensity, without a change
in the genotype of the cultivar. The following observations,
measurements, and comparisons describe the plants grown
in Sturgeon Bay, Wis. under natural field conditions which
approximate those generally used in commercial growing
operations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and
are determined to be basic characterisites of ‘Uenci’ which
in combination distinguish this birch tree as a new and
distinct cultivar:

1. Distinctive narrow, open, vigorous, upright growth
habit with branching angles about 50°.

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2. Bark color changes as the tree matures; from brown
turning to white.
3. Semi-exfoliating bark when mature.
4. Very high resistance to the Bronze Birch Borer.
5. Fast growth rate.

The new cultivar can be compared to the nonpatented
Batula papyrifera for the foregoing characteristics differ
from the nonpatented variety in that the nonpatented variety
has variable resistance to the Bronze Birch Borer, has a loose
oval growth habit and its bark is exfoliating.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying color photographs show typical char-
acteristics of ‘Uenci’, with colors being as true as possible
with illustration of this type;

- FIG. 1 is the side view of a specimen of ‘Uenci’ showing
the narrow open growth habit;
FIG. 2 is the side view of the original tree of the ‘Uenci’
cultivar;
FIG. 3 shows the semi-exfoliating bark;
FIG. 4 shows a close-up of the upper side of a leaf.
FIG. 5 shows a close-up of the under side of a leaf.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

In the following description, color references are made to
The Royal Horticultural Society (R.H.S.) Colour Chart. The
color values were determined in natural light in August 1999
in Sturgeon Bay, Wis.

Classification:
Botanical.—*Betula papyrifera* ‘Uenci’.
Parentage:
Origin.—Found as seedling in a group of *Betula papy-*
rifera in a provenance test plot in Wooster, Ohio in
1986.
Parentage.—Seed parent: *Betula papyrifera*. Pollen
parent: *Betula papyrifera*.
Tree:
Trunk.—Multiple stem: Single-trunked tree. Size:
Diameter at age 10 is approximately 11.5 cm at 1.2
m above the ground. Bark at maturity: White, close

to (R.H.S. 155C) semi-exfoliating to greyed-orange bark (RHS 165C).

Branches.—Angle of attachment: 50°. Spacing: Between whorls 40–50 cm. Size: 3–4 cm when tree is 2.4 m. Bark: Color changes with age: at 4 years, brown (RHS 200C) turning to white close to RHS (155D) with semi-exfoliation, exposing greyed-orange bark RHS 165C. Lenticels: Small, but numerous, size: 2–4 mm×1–2 mm. Color: RHS greyed-oranged 165A.

Height.—8.8 m at about 10 years of age.

Growth habit or form.—Narrow, open growth habit, upright; Growth rate: fast, about 0.8–2.0 m per year, depending on summer temperature, fertility and water availability.

Foliage.—Size of leaf: Length: with petiole 7–10 cm, without petiole 5–10 cm; Width: 3–7 cm; Arrangement: alternate; Shape of leaf: serrate, rounded base, ovate to deltoid with acute apex acuminate apices and double serrate margins; Texture: Smooth; Ribs and veins: mid-rib with 12 veins sub opposite (RHS 144D). Pubescence distribution: on under side of

mid rib and in axils of veins; Quantity: Singles with some 2 per spur, approximately 20 leaves/50 cm of stem. Color: upper side, dark green (RHS 147A), under side dark green (RHS 147B). Petiole: Length: 1.5–3 cm. Diameter: 1.5–2.0 mm; Color: RHS 162-C.

Pest resistance.—High resistance to Bronze Birch Borer as distinguished with other trees in an area of heavy Bronze Birch Borer infestation in Wooster, Ohio and Sturgeon Bay, Wis. Highly resistant to Leafhoppers.

Disease and pest susceptibility.—Moderately susceptible to leafminor.

Winter hardiness/drought/heat resistance.—Winter hardiness in Zone 3 and good drought/heat resistance in Zone 7.

Flowers.—None have been observed to date.

Reproductive organs.—Typical of the species.

What is claimed is:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of birch tree named 'Uenci' as illustrated and described.

* * * * *



Figure 1



Figure 2

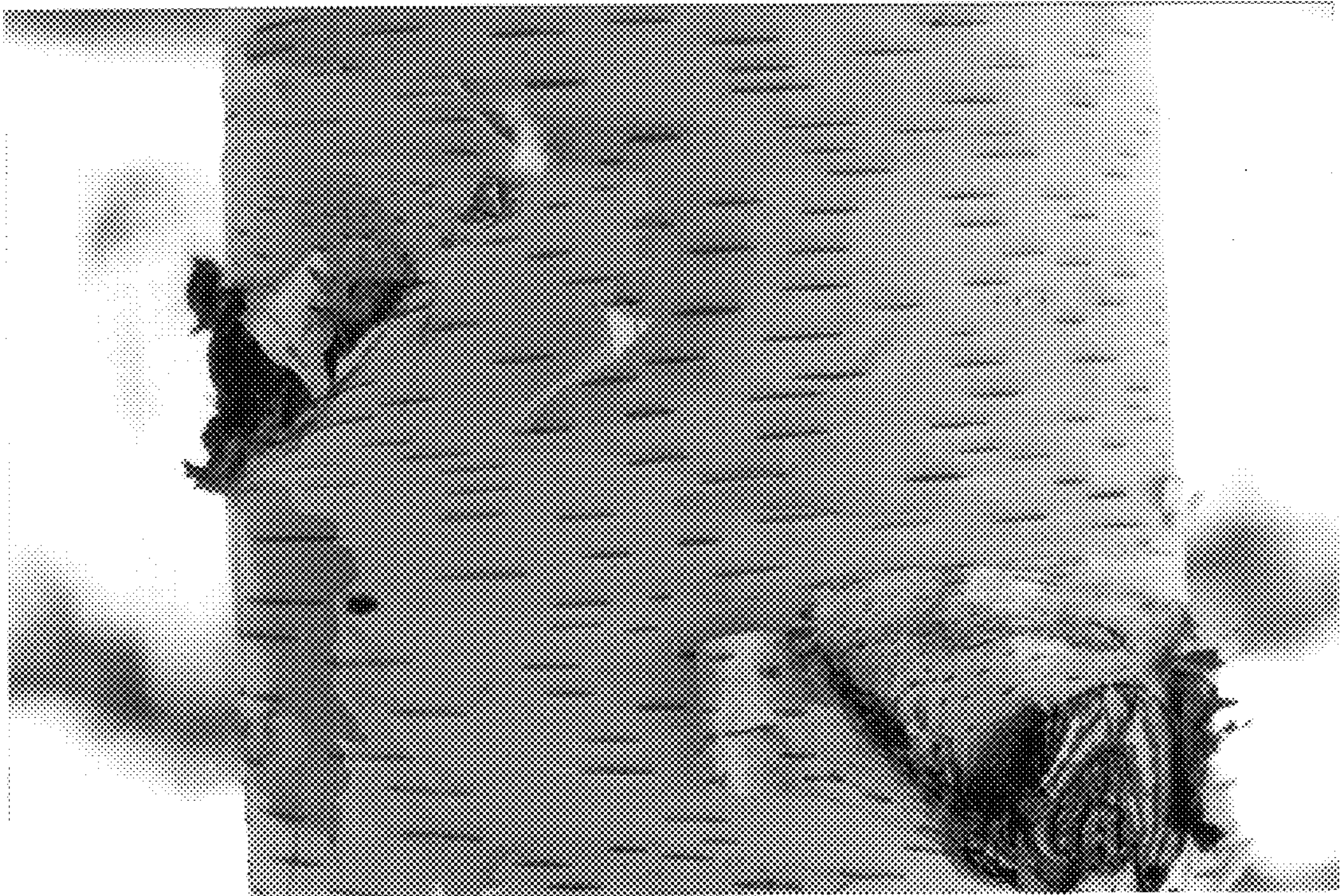


Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5