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Hofmann

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(54) **NEW GUINEA IMPATIENS PLANT NAMED 'FISNICS FUCHSINE'**

(76) Inventor: **Birgit Hofmann**, Gassenweg 29, 56170 Bendorf (DE)

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Primary Examiner—Kent L. Bell
(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—C. A. Whealy

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of New Guinea Impatiens plant named 'Fisnics Fuchsine', characterized by its outwardly spreading, rounded and uniformly mounded plant habit; freely branching and freely flowering habit; large rounded bright purple-colored flowers that are positioned above and beyond the foliage; and medium green-colored leaves.

1 Drawing Sheet

BOTANICAL CLASSIFICATION/CULTIVAR DESIGNATION

Impatiens hawkeri cultivar 'Fisnics Fuchsine'.

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 name 'Fisnics Fuchsine'.

The new Impatiens is a product of a planned breeding program conducted by the Inventor in Hillscheid, Germany. The objective of the breeding program is to develop new compact Impatiens cultivars that flower relatively early and have large rounded flowers with attractive flower color.

The new Impatiens originated from a cross made by the Inventor in May, 1997 of the *Impatiens hawkeri* cultivar 'Danharltpl', not patented, as the female, or seed parent, with the *Impatiens hawkeri* cultivar 'Celebrette Hot Rose', not patented, as the male, or pollen parent. The cultivar 'Fisnics Fuchsine' was discovered and selected by the Inventor as a flowering plant within the progeny of the stated cross in a controlled environment in Moncarapacho, Portugal in March, 1998.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by terminal cuttings taken in Moncarapacho, Portugal, sinch March, 1998, has shown that the unique features of this new Impatiens are stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

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

1. Outwardly spreading, rounded and uniformly mounded plant habit.

2. Freely branching and freely flowering habit.

3. Large rounded bright purple-colored flowers that are positioned above and beyond the foliage.

4. Medium green-colored leaves.

Plants of the new Impatiens can be compared to plants of the female parent, the cultivar 'Danharltpl'. In side-by-side comparisons conducted by the Inventor in Hillscheid, Germany, plants of the new Impatiens differed from plants of the cultivar 'Danharltpl' in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new Impatiens are not as vigorous as plants of the cultivar 'Danharltpl'.

2. Plants of the new Impatiens have slightly smaller leaves than plants of the cultivar 'Danharltpl'.

3. Flower color of plants of the new Impatiens is bright purple whereas flower color of plants of the cultivar 'Danharltpl' is red purple.

Plants of the new Impatiens can be compared to plants of the male parent, the cultivar 'Celebrette Hot Rose'. In side-by-side comparisons conducted by the Inventor in Hillscheid, Germany, plants of the new Impatiens differed from plants of the cultivar 'Celebrette Hot Rose' in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new Impatiens have larger flowers than plants of the cultivar 'Celebrette Hot Rose'.

2. Leaf color of plants of the new Impatiens is darker green than leaf color of plants of the cultivar 'Celebrette Hot Rose'.

3. Flower color of plants of the new Impatiens is bright purple whereas flower color of plants of the cultivar 'Celebrette Hot Rose' is red purple.

Plants of the new Impatiens are similar to plants of the cultivar 'Danharpl', not patented, in flower color. However, in side-by-side comparisons conducted by the Inventor in Hillscheid, Germany, plants of the new Impatiens differed from plants of the cultivar 'Danharpl' in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new Impatiens are shorter, broader and have shorter internodes than plants of the cultivar 'Danharpl'.

2. Plants of the new Impatiens have longer leaves than plants of the cultivar 'Danharpl'.

3. Flower color of plants of the new Impatiens is slightly lighter and more blue than flower color of plants of the cultivar 'Danharpl'.

4. Flowers of plants of the new Impatiens are flat whereas flowers of plants of the cultivar 'Danharpl' are cupped.

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. Colors in the photograph may differ slightly from the color values cited in the detailed botanical description which accurately describe the colors of the new Impatiens.

The photograph comprises a side perspective view of a typical flowering plant of 'Fisnics Fuchsine' grown in a 12-cm container about 10 to 11 weeks after planting a young rooted plant.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The cultivar 'Fisnics Fuchsine' has not been observed under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in environment such as temperature, light intensity, daylength, water status and/or fertility level, without, however, any variance in genotype.

The following observations and measurements describe plants grown in Hillscheid, Germany, under commercial practice in a glass-covered greenhouse. Rooted young plants were planted in 12-cm containers in late February and the following observations and measurements were taken about 10 to 11 weeks later. During the production of the plants, day temperatures ranged from 18 to 24° C. and night temperatures were about 18° C. 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.

Commercial classification: New Guinea Impatiens cultivar 'Fisnics Fuchsine'.

Parentage:

Female parent.—*Impatiens hawkeri* cultivar 'Danharltpl', not patented.

Male parent.—*Impatiens hawkeri* cultivar 'Celebrette Hot Rose', not patented.

Propagation:

Type cutting.—Terminal tip cuttings.

Time to initiate roots.—Summer: About 8 to 9 days at 24° C. Winter: About 10 days at 21° C.

Time to produce a rooted cutting.—Summer: About 15 days at 24° C. Winter: About 18 days at 21° C.

Root description.—Numerous, fibrous, and freely branching; 158D in color.

Plant description:

General appearance.—Outwardly spreading, low, rounded and uniformly mounded plant growth habit; dense and bushy; freely branching and flowering habit.

Crop time.—From a rooted cutting, about 8 to 9 weeks are required to produce finished flowering plants in 12-cm containers.

Plant height.—About 11.5 cm.

Plant diameter or spread.—About 33.6 cm.

Lateral branches.—Quantity per plant: About 9 to 11. Length: About 9.75 cm. Diameter: About 8.5 mm. Internode length: About 3.5 cm. Color: Close to 146A overlain with close to 185A.

Foliage description.—Arrangement: Primarily in whorls. Length: About 12.8 cm. Width: About 4.3 cm. Shape: Elliptic. Apex: Acute to acuminate. Base: Acute. Margin: Serrulate with ciliation. Texture: Smooth, occasionally weakly rugose, glabrous. Color: Young foliage, upper surface: 137B to 137C. Young foliage, lower surface: 139C with random spots, 185B to 185C. Mature foliage, upper surface: 137A to 137B. Mature foliage, lower surface: 139C with random spots, 185B to 185C. Venation, upper surface: 53D to lighter than 53D. Venation, lower surface: 53D. Petiole: Length: About 3 cm. Diameter: About 2.75 mm. Color: Upper surface: 51A. Lower surface: 53D to 51A.

Flower description:

Flower type and flowering habit.—Single and large rounded bright purple-colored flowers. Freely and continuously flowering; usually about 8 to 9 flowers and flower buds per lateral branch. Flowers positioned above and beyond the foliage and typically face upward or outward. Petals self-cleaning; gynoecium persistent. Flowers not fragrant.

Flower longevity.—Flowers last about 7 to 10 days on the plant.

Flowering season.—Year-round under greenhouse conditions; in the garden, flowering from spring until fall. Plants begin flowering about 8 to 9 weeks after planting.

Flower buds.—Length: About 2.3 cm. Diameter: About 1.6 cm. Shape: Ovoid. Color: 57D to 58B.

Flower length.—About 7.8 cm.

Flower width.—About 7.2 cm.

Flower depth.—About 7.5 mm.

Petals.—Quantity: Five per flower, imbricate. Length: Banner petal: About 2.9 cm. Lateral and base petals: About 3.2 cm. Width: Banner petal: About 5 cm. Lateral and base petals: About 3.9 cm. Shape: Roughly cordate. Apex: Emarginate, lobed. Base: Attenuate. Margin: Entire. Aspect: Mostly flat. Texture: Smooth; satiny. Color: When opening, upper surface: 74B. When opening, lower surface: 58B. Fully opened, upper surface: 74B; color fades to 74C with subsequent development; eye zone, white, close to 155D. Fully opened, lower surface: 58B.

Spur.—Quantity: One per flower. Length: About 6.25 cm. Diameter: At apex: About 0.5 mm. At flower: About 3 mm. Aspect: Curved downward. Color: 57C.

Peduncles.—Length: About 6 cm. Diameter: About 2.25 mm. Strength: Strong, flexible. Color: Mostly 143C; occasionally slight reddish, close to 185A, infusion.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium: Stamen number: Five fused at anthers, hooded; filiments free. Anther length: About 7 mm. Anther shape: Obovate. Anther color: 57C to 57D. Pollen amount: Moderate. Pollen color: 8D. Gynoecium: Pistil quantity: One per flower. Pistil length: About 5.5 mm. Stigma color: 66C. Ovary: Five-celled. Ovary color: Immature, 137A; mature, 187A.

Seeds.—Seed development has not been observed.

Disease/pest resistance: Plants of the new Impatiens have not been observed to be resistant to pathogens and pests common to Impatiens.

It is claimed:

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

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