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**Shimizu**

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(54) *HYDRANGEA ANOMALA* SUBSPECIES  
*PETIOLARIS* PLANT NAMED 'KUGA  
VARIEGATED'

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patent is extended or adjusted under 35  
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(56) **References Cited**

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new plant variety of *Hydrangea anomala* subspecies  
petiolaris having new shoots and foliage that emerge white,  
cream, pale yellow to pink with pink stems. Foliage goes  
through a phase in which leaves are flecked/dotted cream to  
pale yellow sometimes with margin pale yellow in an  
irregular variegated pattern. Mature foliage is viridescent  
with leaves becoming green.

**3 Drawing Sheets**

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**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention relates to a new and distinct variety  
of *Hydrangea anomala* D. Don. subspecies *petiolaris* (Sieb.  
& Zucc.) McClint., and was discovered as a branch sport in  
a controlled planting of an unnamed, unpatented *Hydrangea*  
*anomala* subspecies *petiolaris* plant in Kuga-Cho, Kuga-  
Gun, Yamaguchi Prefecture, Japan, by Mr. Toshiro Shimizu.  
The varietal denomination of the new variety is 'Kuga  
variegated'.

The genus *Hydrangea* is included in the family Saxi-  
fragaceae which comprises about 80 genera and 1,200  
species of herbs, shrubs, small trees, woody climbers mostly  
temperate in origin. Recent taxonomical treatments some-  
times isolate *Hydrangea* in a new family, Hydrangeaceae.  
*Hydrangea* comprises approximately 23 species of decidu-  
ous or evergreen shrubs and vines originating in North  
America, South America and East Asia, many of which  
possess desirable ornamental characteristics.

*Hydrangea anomala* subspecies *petiolaris* is widespread  
and common throughout Japan and some locations within  
Korea. It generally has opposite, oval to rounded leaves 5 to  
10 cm long and 3 to 8 cm wide. Leaves are acute or  
acuminate to apex, cordate or round at the base. Leaf  
margins are serrate, glabrous on surface. The plant is decidu-  
ous. Foliage color is dark green on the top surface, and pale  
green on the underside, depending on light. The species  
*Hydrangea anomala* differs from *H. anomala* subspecies  
*petiolaris* by having smaller leaves, corymbs are smaller and  
stamen count is 9 to 15. All *Hydrangea anomala* sub-  
*petiolaris* have a juvenile and adult phase of growth. Plants  
in the juvenile growth phase have smaller leaves and do not  
flower. Some foliar characteristics change as the plant enters  
the adult phase as well and begins to flower.

Inflorescences of *Hydrangea anomala* subsp. *petiolaris*  
bloom in June to July, are 15 to 25 cm wide, with sepals in  
groups of 3 to 5 on the outer florets. The inner florets are  
fertile, and slightly fragrant with 15 to 22 stamens.

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

The new variety has new shoots and foliage that emerge  
white, cream, pale yellow to pink, with pink stems. Foliage

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goes through a phase in which leaves are flecked/dotted  
cream to pale yellow sometimes with margin pale yellow in  
an irregular variegated pattern. Mature foliage is viridescent  
with leaves becoming green. Asexual reproduction of the  
new variety by stem cuttings performed in Yamaguchi  
Prefecture, Japan; Lewisberry, Pa.; and Vacaville, Calif.;  
have confirmed that the distinctive characteristics of the new  
variety are stable and transmitted to succeeding generations.

**COMPARISON WITH PARENT**

The new variety differs from its parent in coloration of  
new shoots and foliage that emerge white, cream, pale  
yellow to pink, with pink stems, becoming flecked/dotted  
cream to pale yellow sometimes with pale yellow margins in  
an irregular variegated pattern.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ILLUSTRATIONS**

The accompanying illustrations show specimens of the  
new cultivar in a photo illustration as true to color as is  
reasonably possible to make in an illustration of this char-  
acter.

FIG. 1 shows the new foliage as well as the secondary  
foliage prior to maturation;

FIG. 2 illustrates the new growth as well as the newly  
emerged growth; and

FIG. 3 is an illustration of the secondary foliage with the  
distinct flecked/dotted cream to pale yellow variegation.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW VARIETY**

'Kuga Variegated' has not been observed under all pos-  
sible environmental, cultural, and light conditions. The  
following observations and descriptions are of 5-year-old  
plants grown in 10-gallon containers at Lewisberry, Pa., and  
Vacaville, Calif. In the description, color references are to  
The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart (1995) and  
terminology used in the color descriptions herein refers to  
plate numbers in this color chart. Phenotypic expression  
may vary with light intensity, cultural, and environmental  
conditions.

## CLASSIFICATION

Botanical: *Hydrangea anomala* D. Don. subspecies *petiolaris* (Sieb. & Zucc.) McClint. 'Kuga Variegated'.

Parentage: Branch sport of a *Hydrangea anomala* subspecies *petiolaris* plant (unnamed, unpatented).

Propagation: By vegetative cuttings.

Plant:

*Size*.—Mature plant can climb and spread to about 16 meters at maturity.

*Habit*.—A clinging vine climbing with root like hold-fasts.

*Leaves*.—Opposite, simple, ovate to ovate oval, about 5 to 10 cm long, 3 to 8 cm wide; acute or acuminate at apex, cordate at base.

*Left margin*.—Serrate.

*Stems*.—Hirsute on new growth.

*Internodes*.—4 cm in length.

## COLOR OF LEAVES IN THREE DIFFERENT GROWTH PHASES

New growth:

*Variation leaf top*.—Near 41B.

*Variation leaf underside*.—Near 41B.

*Stems*.—Near 47B.

Secondary growth:

*Variation leaf top*.—Near 2B to 2C.

*Variation leaf bottom*.—Near 2B to 2D.

*Mottled variegation region*.—Near 147A.

Mature growth:

*Top of leaf*.—Near 147A.

*Leaf bottom*.—Near 147C.

*Leaf size*.—Average about 5 to 10 cm long and 3 to 8 cm wide.

*Shape*.—Ovate to nearly ovate oval.

*Texture and substance*.—Firm and glabrous above and below.

*Leaf apex*.—Acute to ovate oval.

*Leaf base*.—Cordate.

*Petioles*.—About 5 mm long; near Red Group 47B.

*Hardiness*.—USDA Zone 4 (−30 F. to −20 F.).

*Pest/diseases*.—No pest or disease problems noted.

Inflorescence:

*Bloom period*.—Early to mid-summer.

*Lastingness of individual bloom*.—To 3 weeks.

*Inflorescence form*.—Flat corymbs, 3 to 5 corymbs per plant, outer florets sterile, inner florets fertile.

*Inflorescence size*.—About 15 to 25 cm wide.

*Color*.—White.

*Fragrance*.—Sweet.

*Outer florets*.—Grouping of 3 to 5 sepals, sterile, about 5 to 10 cm wide.

*Number of sepals per floret*.—12 to 18.

*Sepal length*.—Approximately 2.5 cm.

*Sepal width*.—Approximately 2.5 cm.

*Sepal shape*.—Round.

*Sepal margin*.—Entire.

*Sepal color*.—Top near White Group 155A; bottom near White Group 155A.

*Inner florets*.—Fertile.

*Stamens*.—About 15 to 20.

*Pistils*.—1.

*Fruit*.—Capsule, dehiscent.

I claim:

1. A new plant of *Hydrangea anomala* subspecies *petiolaris* substantially as shown and described.

\* \* \* \* \*



FIG. 1



FIG. 2



FIG. 3