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Hammett

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(54) **NEMESIA PLANT NAMED 'NEMPLUM'**

(58) **Field of Search** Plt./263

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(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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(*) **Notice:** Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this
patent is extended or adjusted under 35
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

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A new and distinct cultivar of *Nemesia* plant named
'Nemplum', characterized by its upright and outwardly
spreading plant habit; freely branching habit; small green
leaves; and numerous dark purple-colored flowers.

(51) **Int. Cl.⁷** **A01H 5/00**

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./263**

1 Drawing Sheet

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**BOTANICAL CLASSIFICATION/CULTIVAR
DESIGNATION**

Nemesia caerulea cultivar 'Nemplum'.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of *Nemesia* plant, botanically known as *Nemesia caerulea*
and referred to by the name 'Nemplum'.

The new *Nemesia* is a product of a planned breeding
program conducted by the Inventor in Auckland, New
Zealand. The objective of the program is to create new
compact *Nemesia* cultivars with numerous flowers and
unique flower colors.

The new *Nemesia* originated from a cross by the Inventor
of the *Nemesia caerulea* cultivar 'Monkey Bum', not
patented, as the female, or seed, parent with the *Nemesia*
caerulea cultivar 'RCU 1', not patented, as the male, or
pollen, parent on or about Oct. 30, 1998. The cultivar
'Nemplum' was discovered and selected by the Inventor as
a flowering plant within the progeny of the stated cross in a
controlled environment in Auckland, New Zealand on or
about Apr. 16, 1999.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Nemesia* by terminal
cuttings taken in a controlled environment in Auckland,
New Zealand since September, 1999, has shown that the
unique features of this new *Nemesia* are stable and are
reproduced true to type in successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The new *Nemesia* has not been observed under all possible
environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary
somewhat with variations in environment such as
temperature, daylength and light intensity, without,
however, any variance in genotype.

The following characteristics have been repeatedly
observed and are determined to be basic characteristics of
'Nemplum' and distinguish 'Nemplum' as a new and distinct
cultivar:

1. Upright and outwardly spreading plant habit.
2. Freely branching habit.

3. Small green leaves.
 4. Numerous dark purple-colored flowers.
- Plants of the new *Nemesia* differ primarily from plants of
the female parent, the cultivar 'Monkey Bum', in the fol-
lowing characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Nemesia* have darker green leaves
than plants of the cultivar 'Monkey Bum'.
2. Plants of the new *Nemesia* have dark purple-colored
flowers whereas plants of the cultivar 'Monkey Bum'
have light purple-colored flowers.

Plants of the new *Nemesia* differ primarily from plants of
the male parent, the cultivar 'RCU 1', in the following
characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Nemesia* are not as compact as plants
of the cultivar 'RCU 1'.
2. Plants of the new *Nemesia* are more floriferous than
plants of the cultivars 'RCU 1'.
3. Plants of the new *Nemesia* have dark purple-colored
flowers whereas plants of the cultivar 'RCU 1' have red
purple-colored flowers.

Plants of the new *Nemesia* can be compared to plants of
the cultivar 'Blueberry Sachet', not patented. In side-by-side
comparisons conducted in Encinitas, Calif., plants of the
new *Nemesia* differed from plants of the cultivar 'Blueberry
Sachet' in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Nemesia* were denser and bushier
than plants of the cultivar 'Blueberry Sachet'.
2. Plants of the new *Nemesia* flowered about one week
later than plants of the cultivar 'Blueberry Sachet'.
3. Plants of the new *Nemesia* had dark purple-colored
flowers whereas plants of the cultivar 'Blueberry
Sachet' had blue-colored flowers.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying colored photographs illustrate the
overall appearance of the new *Nemesia*, showing the colors
as true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in colored
reproductions of this type. Colors in the photographs may
differ slightly from the color values cited in the detailed

botanical description which accurately describe the colors of the new *Nemesia*.

The photograph at the top of the sheet comprises a side perspective view of a typical potted plant of 'Nemplum' that was about 14 weeks old.

The photograph at the bottom of the sheet comprises a close-up view of typical leaves and flowers of 'Nemplum'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The aforementioned photographs and following observations and averaged measurements describe plants grown in Encinitas, Calif., in a polyethylene-covered greenhouse during the spring with day temperatures about 24° C., night temperatures about 19° C., and light levels about 4,000 foot-candles. Plants were grown for 14 weeks in 16.5-cm containers with one plant per container and were pinched. Color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

Parentage:

Female parent.—*Nemesia caerulea* cultivar 'Monkey Bum', not patented.

Male parent.—*Nemesia caerulea* cultivar 'RCU 1', not patented.

Propagation:

Type.—By vegetative cuttings.

Time to initiate roots.—About 14 days at 20° C.

Time to develop roots.—About 30 days at 20° C.

Root description.—Fibrous, fine.

Plant description:

General appearance.—Upright and outwardly spreading plant habit. Freely branching, typically about 38 laterals with numerous secondary laterals developing after pinching. Numerous dark purple-colored zygomorphic flowers. Vigorous.

Plant height.—About 36 cm.

Plant diameter or spread.—About 44 cm.

Lateral branches.—Appearance: Slender and filamantous; square in cross-section. Length: About 34 cm. Diameter: About 3 mm. Internode length: About 1.5 to 4 cm. Strength: Moderately strong, wiry; with development, lateral branches tend to bend with weight of flowers. Texture: Glabrous. Color: 144A.

Foliage description.—Arrangement: Opposite, simple. Quantity: About 18 per lateral branch. Shape: Elliptic. Apex: Broadly acute. Base: Acute to rounded. Length: About 3.5 cm. Width: About 1.5 cm. Margin: Serrate. Texture: Glabrous. Venation pattern: Pinnate, arcuate. Fragrance: Pungent, grassy. Petiole length: About 2 mm. Petiole diameter: About 2 mm. Color: Young leaves, upper surface: 147A. Young leaves, lower surface: 147B. Fully expanded leaves, upper surface: 146A. Fully expanded leaves, lower surface: 146B. Venation, upper and lower surfaces: 146B. Petiole: 146B.

Flowering description:

Arrangement/appearance.—Zygomorphic solitary flowers arranged on terminal racemes; flowering acropetally towards apex. Flowers bilabiate with nectar spur. Flowers face outward. Flowers last about four to five days on the plant. Flowers not persistent.

Natural flowering season.—Natural flowering season is spring to fall; flowering continuous during this period.

Quantity of flowers.—Freely flowering with about 12 flowers and flower buds per raceme at one time.

Fragrance.—Faint, spicy and sweet.

Inflorescence length.—About 13.5 cm.

Inflorescence diameter.—About 3.5 cm.

Flower length.—About 1.3 cm.

Flower width.—About 1.2 cm.

Flower depth, including nectar spur.—About 8 mm.

Nectar spur length.—About 7 mm.

Flower buds.—Shape: Ovoid with spur. Length: About 1 cm. Diameter: About 6 mm. Color: 76B.

Petals.—Arrangement/shape: Five petals total. Four upper petals are fused at base to form an upright lobed and arched banner lip; lower petal modified into a larger lip with nectar spur and convex oval protuberance which serves as pollinator nectar guide and landing platform. Apex: Rounded. Margin: Entire. Length: Upper lip petals: About 6 mm. Lower lip petal: About 7 mm. Width: Upper lip petals: Lateral two petals: About 5 mm. Center two petals: About 3 mm. Lower lip petal: About 1 cm. Texture: Smooth, velvety. Color: When opening, upper surface: 77B. When opening, lower surface: 76C. Fully opened, upper surface: 90A to 90B; color fading to 90D towards the margin and 84A towards the center with subsequent development. Fully opened, lower surface: 76C to 76D. Nectar guide: 2A. Nectar spur: 2C.

Sepals.—Quantity: Five-parted, star-shaped calyx. Shape: Elliptic. Apex: Acute. Base: Fused. Margin: Entire. Length: About 2 mm. Diameter: About 1 mm. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Pubescent. Color, upper and lower surfaces: 144A.

Peduncle.—Length: About 13.5 cm. Diameter: About 1.5 mm. Strength: Strong. Angle: Upright to 45° from the stem. Color: 144A.

Pedicle.—Length: About 1.2 cm. Diameter: Less than 1 mm. Strength: Slender, but hold flowers outward. Angle: About 45° from the stem. Color: 144B.

Androecium.—Stamen number: Four per flower. Anther shape: Oval. Anther size: Less than 1 mm. Anther color: 6A. Amount of pollen: Scarce. Pollen color: 6A.

Gynoecium.—Pistil number: One per flower. Stigma shape: Flattened. Pistil length: About 2 mm. Style length: About 1 mm. Style color: 144D. Stigma shape: Rounded. Stigma color: 144D. Ovary color: 144B.

Seed/fruit.—Seed and fruit production has not been observed on plants of the new *Nemesia*.

Disease/pest resistance: Plants of the new *Nemesia* have not been observed to be resistant to pathogens or pests common to *Nemesias*.

Temperature tolerance: Plants of the new *Nemesia* have been observed to be tolerant to temperatures ranging from 4° to 32° C.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Nemesia* plant named 'Nemplum', as illustrated and described.

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