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Bunnik

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(54) **GUZMANIA PLANT NAMED 'DEPLAGNUM'**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct Guzmania plant named 'Deplagnum'
characterized by big inflorescence size; purple inflorescence
with yellow-green scape bract tips; flat top of inflorescence;
and dark, wide green leaves.

2 Drawing Sheets

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Latin name of the genus and species of the plant claimed:
Guzmania hybrid.
Variety denomination: 'Deplagnum'.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention comprises a new and distinct cul-
tivar of Guzmania plant, hereinafter referred to by the
cultivar name 'Deplagnum'. The genus Guzmania is a
member of the family Bromeliaceae.

Guzmania comprise a genus of over 100 species of
herbaceous evergreen perennials suitable for cultivation in
the home or under glass. Guzmania are predominantly
epiphytic with a few terrestrial species and are native to the
tropics. For the most part the species vary in diameter from
7 or 8 inches to 3 or 4 feet and have rosettes of glossy,
smooth edged leaves.

Floral bracts of Guzmania frequently have brilliant colors
and may last for many months. The range of flower colors
for Guzmania is generally from yellow through orange but
may also include flame red and red-purple. White or yellow,
tubular, three petalled flowers may also appear on a stem or
within the leaf rosette but are usually short lived.

Guzmania may be advantageously grown as potted plants
for greenhouse or home use. Desirably the plants are shaded
from direct sunlight during the spring to autumn period, the
central vase-like part of the leaf rosette is normally filled
with water.

Guzmania is native to tropical America. Leaves of the
Guzmania are usually formed as basal rosettes which are
stiff and entire and in several vertical ranks. Guzmania have
terminal spikes or panicles which are often bracted with
petals united in a tube about as long as the calyx.

Asexual propagation of Guzmania is frequently done
through the use of tissue culture practices. Propagation can
also be from off-shoots which are detached from the mother
plant, and may be grown in an appropriate soil or bark
mixture.

The new cultivar 'Deplagnum' is the product of a planned
breeding program and originated by the inventor Ronald

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Bunnik, in 1995 in Pijnacker, The Netherlands. The instant
plant was a naturally occurring branch mutation of an
unnamed Guzmania plant. The selection comprising the new
variety was chosen after commencement of flowering in
1995.

The new cultivar was asexually propagated by taking
cuttings by the inventor in Pijnacker, The Netherlands in
1995. Asexual propagation by tissue culture was initiated in
1999 by Deroose Plants, in Evergem, Belgium. Continuous
asexual propagation has demonstrated that the combination
of characteristics as herein disclosed for the new cultivar
'Deplagnum' are firmly fixed and are retained through
successive generations of asexual reproduction. The new
cultivar reproduces true to type.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and
are determined to be basic characteristics of 'Deplagnum'
which in combination distinguish this Guzmania as a new
and distinct cultivar:

1. Big inflorescence size;
2. Purple inflorescence with yellow-green scape bract
tips;
3. Flat top inflorescence;
4. Dark and wide green leaves

'Deplagnum' has not been observed under all possible
environmental conditions. The phenotype of the new culti-
var may vary significantly with variations in environment
such as temperature, light intensity, and day length without
any change in genotype.

Of the many commercial cultivars known to the present
inventor, the most similar in comparison to 'Deplagnum' is
the Guzmania cultivar 'Indian' (unpatented). In comparison
to 'Indian', the inflorescence of 'Deplagnum' is flatter on the
top, is much bigger and darker colored. Guzmania 'Depla-
gnum' also has darker green and wider leaves than 'Indian'.
The flower shape of 'Deplagnum' is more compact than the
flower shape of 'Indian'. 'Deplagnum' differs from its parent
primarily in bract coloration.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

The accompanying photographic illustration shows a 19-month-old 'Deplagnum' plant following growth under appropriate growing conditions, with colors being as true as possible with illustrations of this type.

The drawing at the top of sheet one depicts a side view of the plant.

The drawing at the bottom of sheet one depicts a close up of the inflorescence.

The drawing on sheet two depicts a close up side view of the plant.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The following observations, measurements and values describe 19 month old plants grown in 12 cm containers in Pijnacker, The Netherland under greenhouse conditions which closely approximate those generally used in horticultural practice. 'Deplagnum' is grown in a commercial greenhouse under 21 degrees Celsius day and night. No artificial lighting or photoperiodic treatments are conducted but 'Deplagnum' is forced into flowering by adding acetylene. Highest temperature resistance is 40 degrees Celsius, the lowest 5 degrees Celsius. Direct sunlight has to be avoided because it causes burning of the leaves. The following fertilizer is added: 1 part nitrogen, 0.5 parts phosphorus, 3 parts Kalium and 0.2 parts Magnesium. Water should not contain too much salts. From the start of tissue culture it takes five years to produce a commercial plant. The amount of time needed to produce a flower depends on the amount of acetylene is added. The flowers have a tenability of up to six months depending on the environment they are grown and kept in.

Color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart (R.H.S.), except where general colors of ordinary significance are used.

Propagation: Tissue culture.

Plant:

Form.—Upright, leaves in basal rosette.

Height.—Average 42 cm.

Diameter.—Average 50 cm.

Growth habit.—Upright, growth moderate.

Foliage:

Size.—Leaves have an average length of 31 cm and an average width of 4 cm (measured at the middle of a leaf).

Shape.—Linear, tips acute.

Margin.—Entire.

Surface texture.—Smooth, glossy.

Color.—Leaf color upper side dark yellow-green, closest too but slightly darker than RHS 147 A. Leaf color under side yellow-green RHS 147 A.

Bracts:

General shape/arrangement.—Broad lanceolate, arranged alternately, tips horizontal to slightly bent

downwards in an average angle of 0° (=horizontal) to 40°.

Shape bracts.—Number: Average 7. Length: Average 19.8 cm. Width: Average 3.8 cm. Margin: Entire. Apex: Apiculate. Texture: Smooth, glossy. Color: Upper side greyed-purple, between RHS 187 A and RHS 187 B; upper half and tips yellow-green, RHS 147 A; Under side greyed-purple, between RHS 187 B and RHS 187 C.

Primary bracts.—Number: Average 7. Length: Average 15.4 cm. Width: Average 3.3 cm. Margin: Entire. Apex: Apiculate. Texture: Smooth, glossy. Color: Upper side greyed-purple, RHS 187 A; tips dark yellow-green, RHS 147 A to dark greyed-purple, RHS N186A; under side greyed-purple, between RHS 187 B and RHS 187 C, with dark yellow-green tips, RHS 147 A to dark greyed-purple, RHS N186A.

Floral bracts.—Number: Average 12. Length: Average 9.0 cm. Width: Average 3.2 cm. Margin: Entire. Apex: Apiculate. Texture: Smooth, glossy. Color: Upper side greyed-purple, RHS 187 A; under side greyed-purple, between RHS 187 B and RHS 187 C.

Inflorescence: Inflorescences are placed in the axils of the floral bracts; on average there are 9 inflorescences with an average length of 3.1 cm; each inflorescence consists of an average of 7 individual flowers.

Sepal.—Each perianth consists of one large sepal, narrow oblong shape, slightly folded, average length 2.6 cm, average width 9 mm, outside color yellow-green, RHS 151 B with yellow-orange tip RHS 16 A, lighter base, RHS 151 C; inner side yellow-green, RHS 151 with yellow-orange tip; RHS 16 A, lighter base; RHS 151 C.

Petals.—6, linear, 3 outer petals have an average length of 2.4 cm and an average width of 4 mm, green-white in color, RHS 157 A on both surfaces with yellow tips, RHS 6 D; 3 inner petals have an average length of 2 cm and an average width of 4 mm, yellow-orange in color, RHS 16 A on both surfaces, lighter yellow base, between RHS 12 B and RHS 12 C.

Calyx.—Average width 6 mm.

Reproductive organs:

Stamens.—6, attached to the base of the inner 3 petals.

Anthers.—Yellow, RHS 4 D; produce small quantity of light yellow pollen, between RHS 4 C and RHS 4 D.

Style.—Each individual flower holds one style, average length 1.5 cm, yellow RHS 7 B.

Stigma.—Average length 2 mm, split into 3 clavate parts.

Seed characteristics: No fruits or seeds observed to date.

Roots: Thin, very well-branched, strong to moderately strong, color brown RHS 199 C.

Disease/pest resistance/susceptibility: 'Deplagnum' is no more susceptible or resistant to disease and pests than other *Guzmania* varieties.

I claim:

1. A new and distinct *Guzmania* plant named 'Deplagnum' as described and illustrated herein.

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