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(54) **NEW GUINEA IMPATIENS PLANT NAMED ‘KITAMB’**

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(*) **Notice:** Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of New Guinea Impatiens plant named ‘Kitamb’, characterized by its rounded, upright and compact plant habit; freely branching growth habit; dark green-colored foliage; freely flowering habit with flowers positioned above or beyond the foliage; and red-colored flowers.

1 Drawing Sheet

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BOTANICAL CLASSIFICATION/CULTIVAR DESIGNATION

Impatiens hawkeri cultivar Kitamb.

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 cultivar name Kitamb.

The new Impatiens is a product of a planned breeding program Inventor in Gensingen, Germany. The objective of the breeding program is to develop new Impatiens cultivars with interesting and unique flower and foliage colors.

The new Impatiens originated from a cross-pollination made by the Inventor in October, 1997 of the *Impatiens hawkeri* cultivar Timor, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 9,144, as the female, or seed parent, with a proprietary *Impatiens hawkeri* selection identified as O 271, not patented, as the male, or pollen parent. The cultivar Kitamb was discovered and selected by the Inventor as a flowering plant within the progeny of the stated cross-pollination in a controlled environment in Gensingen, Germany in April, 1998.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by terminal cuttings taken at Gensingen, Germany, since May, 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 ‘Kitamb’. These characteristics in combination distinguish ‘Kitamb’ as a new and distinct Impatiens cultivar:

1. Rounded, upright and compact plant habit.
2. Freely branching growth habit; bushy appearance.
3. Dark green-colored foliage.
4. Freely flowering habit with flowers held above and beyond the foliage.
5. Red-colored flowers.

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Plants of the new Impatiens differ from plants of the female parent, the cultivar Timor, in the following characteristics:

1. Leaves of plants of the new Impatiens are not as glossy as leaves of plants of the cultivar Timor.
2. Plants of the new Impatiens have larger, more rounded and flatter flowers than plants of the cultivar Timor.
3. Plants of the new Impatiens flower slightly later than plants of the cultivar Timor.
4. Plants of the new Impatiens have red-colored flowers whereas plants of the cultivar Timor have bright orange-colored flowers.

Plants of the new Impatiens differ from plants of the male parent, the selection O 271, in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new Impatiens are more vigorous than plants of the selection O 271.
2. Plants of the new Impatiens have darker colored leaves than plants of the selection O 271.
3. Plants of the new Impatiens flower earlier than plants of the selection O 271.
4. Plants of the new Impatiens have slightly lighter colored flowers than plants of the selection O 271.

Plants of the new Impatiens can be compared to plants of the cultivar Tarawa, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 10,320. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Gensingen, Germany, plants of the new Impatiens differed from plants of the cultivar Tarawa in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new Impatiens were broader than plants of the cultivar Tarawa.
2. Plants of the new Impatiens had broader and more green-colored leaves than plants of the cultivar Tarawa.
3. Plants of the new Impatiens had lighter colored flowers than plants of the cultivar Tarawa.

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 more accurately describe the actual colors of the new *Impatiens*. The photograph comprises a side perspective view of three typical flowering plants of 'Kitamb' grown in a 15-cm container.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The cultivar Kitamb has not been observed under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in environment such as temperature and light intensity, without, however, any variance in genotype. The aforementioned photograph and the following observations and measurements describe plants grown in Encinitas, Calif., during the late spring, under commercial practice in a polyethylene-covered greenhouse with day temperatures about 24° C., night temperatures about 18° C., and light levels typically about 4,000 foot-candles. Plants used in the photograph and following description were about 14 weeks old and grown in 15-cm containers with three plants per container.

In the following description, color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 1995 Edition, except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

Botanical classification: *Impatiens hawkeri* cultivar Kitamb.
Parentage:

Female, or seed, parent.—*Impatiens hawkeri* cultivar Timor, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 9,144.

Male, or pollen, parent.—Proprietary *Impatiens hawkeri* selection identified as O 271, not patented.

Propagation:

Type cutting.—Terminal cuttings.

Time to initiate roots.—Summer: About 14 days at 21° C. Winter: About 18 days at 21° C.

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

Root description.—Fine, fibrous, and freely branching.

Plant description:

General appearance.—Rounded and somewhat upright; compact. Appropriate for 10 to 25-cm containers; multiple plants are typically planted in larger containers.

Growth and branching habit.—Freely branching with about eight lateral branches developing at the base, dense and bushy growth. Pinching, that is, removal of the terminal apices, is typically not required. Moderately vigorous.

Plant height.—About 15 cm.

Plant diameter, single plant.—About 21 cm.

Lateral branches.—Length: About 12 cm. Diameter: About 6 mm. Internode length: About 2 cm. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: 59A.

Foliage description.—Arrangement: Opposite or in whorls; simple. Length: About 10.3 cm. Width: About 3.8 cm. Shape: Elliptic. Apex: Acuminate. Base: Attenuate. Margin: Serrulate with ciliation. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color: Young foliage, upper surface: 146A. Young foliage, lower surface: 146B. Fully expanded

foliage, upper surface: 147A. Fully expanded foliage, lower surface: 147B. Venation, upper and lower surfaces: 60B. Petiole: Length: About 4 cm. Diameter: About 3 mm. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color, upper and lower surfaces: 60B.

Flower description:

Flower type and flowering habit.—Single axillary flowers. Freely flowering, usually about seven flowers and flower buds per lateral branch. Flowers positioned above and beyond the foliage and typically face upward or outward. Flowers somewhat cupped and rounded rectangular in shape. Flowers last about eight days on the plant depending on temperature and weather conditions. Petals self-cleaning; gynoecium persistent. Flowers not fragrant.

Flowering season.—Year-round under greenhouse conditions. In the garden, flowering from spring until fall.

Flower height.—About 5.7 cm.

Flower width.—About 5.3 cm.

Flower depth.—About 2.5 cm.

Flower buds (at stage of showing color).—Rate of opening: From showing color to fully open flower, typically about 2 to 3 days depending on temperature. Length: About 1.6 cm. Diameter: About 7 mm. Shape: Ovoid. Color: 43A.

Petals.—Quantity: Single, five per flower. Length: Banner petal: About 2.5 cm. Lateral petals: About 2.7 cm. Base petals: About 3 cm. Width: Banner petal: About 4 cm. Lateral petals: About 2.6 cm. Base petals: About 2.9 cm. Shape: Cordate. Apex: Emarginate. Base: Acute. Margin: Entire. Texture: Smooth; velvety. Color: When opening, upper surface: 46B. When opening, lower surface: 44B. Fully opened, upper surface: 45B; towards base, 61B. Fully opened, lower surface: 43A.

Spur.—Length: About 5.2 cm. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: 60A.

Peduncles.—Length: About 5.4 cm. Diameter: About 1 mm. Strength: Strong. Angle: About 45° from vertical. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: 59A.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium: Stamen number: Five fused at anthers, filaments free. Anther shape: Obovate. Anther size: About 3 mm by 4 mm. Anther color: 8C. Amount of pollen: Scarce to moderate. Pollen color: 8D. Gynoecium: Pistil length: About 5 mm. Stigma color: 155A. Style color: 155A. Ovary color: 144C.

Seed/fruit.—Seed and fruit 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*.

Temperature tolerance: Plants of the new *Impatiens* have been observed to tolerate temperatures from 14 to 30° C. It is claimed:

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

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