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(12) **United States Plant Patent**
Stemkens

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(54) **DIASCIA PLANT NAMED ‘DIASTONIA’**
(50) Latin Name: *Diascia barberae*
Varietal Denomination: **Diastonia**
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(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./263**
(58) **Field of Search** **Plt./263**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**
A new Diascia plant particularly distinguished by its rosy red flowers, which produces no seeds, and has a growing habit that is spreading and hanging.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Varietal denomination: ‘Diastonia’.

BACKGROUND OF THE NEW PLANT

The present invention comprises a new distinct cultivar of Diascia, botanically known as *Diascia barberae*.
The new cultivar is propagated from cuttings resulting from the cross of ‘A64-1’ and ‘A65-1’. ‘A64-1’ is a coral flowering Diascia having a semi-erect habit and large flowers. ‘A64-1’ is not commercially available and is not known by any synonyms. ‘A65-1’ is a coral flowering Diascia having a spreading habit and intermediate flowers. ‘A65-1’ is not commercially available and is not known by any synonyms. Neither ‘A64-1’ nor ‘A65-1’ has been patented.
As a result of this cross the present cultivar was created in 1999 in Enkhuizen, Netherlands and has been repeatedly asexually reproduced by cuttings in Enkhuizen, Netherlands and Sarrians, France over a three-year period. It has been found to retain its distinctive characteristics through successive propagations, and this novelty appears to be firmly fixed.
This new Diascia plant is an annual in most climatical zones in the US, only in zones 7, 8, 9 and 10 it is a perennial plant.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

This new Diascia plant is illustrated by the accompanying photographic drawing which shows blooms, buds and foliage of the plant in full color, the color shown being as true as can be reasonably obtained by conventional photographic procedures.

DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW CULTIVAR

The following detailed descriptions set forth the distinctive characteristics of this new Diascia. The data which defines these characteristics were collected from asexual reproductions carried out in Enkhuizen, Netherlands. The plant history was taken on 10 weeks old plants, blossomed under natural light in a greenhouse.
Color readings were taken in the greenhouse under ambient light. Color references are primarily to The R.H.S. Colour Chart of The Royal Horticultural Society of London.

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TABLE I

Differences between the new cultivar ‘Diastonia,’ its parents and a similar cultivar				
	‘Diastonia’	‘A64-1’	‘A65-1’	‘Red Ace’
Flower color	Rosy red	Coral	Lilac	Rosy Red
Plant size	Medium	Large	Small	Very large
Leaf size	Medium	Medium	Small	Large
Internodes	Short	Medium	Short	Long

The plant:
Classification.—Botanical: *Diascia barberae*.
Parentage.—Female parent: A seedling named ‘A64-1’ is one of our seedlings from our A-generation of plants bred in 1996. Pollen parent: A seedling named ‘A65-1’ is one of our seedlings from our A-generation of plants bred in 1996.
Growth habit.—Spreading.
Plant height.—16–25 cm.
Spreading area of plant.—20–28 cm.
Growth rate.—Vigorous.
Strength.—Very good.
Branching character.—Freely branching and lateral branching at every node.
Quantity of branches.—100–120 branches per plant.
Blooming period.—From April until November.
The stem:
Diameter.—0.5–1.0 mm.
Shape.—Round.
Color.—141B.
Anthocyan pigmentation.—Absent.
Length of internode.—Vegetative growth: 10–30 mm. Generative growth: 5–40 mm.
Pubescence.—Not pubescent.
The foliage:
Phyllotaxis.—Opposite.
Shape of blade.—Cordate to ovate.
Texture.—Upper side: Smooth. Lower side: Smooth.
Attachment to leaf.—Petiolate.
Venation.—Pinnate.
Leaf margin.—Crenate.
Leaf base.—Subcordate.
Leaf apex.—Abruptly acute.

Length.—16–24 mm.
Width.—12–18 mm.
Depth of incision.—1 mm.
Color.—Upper side: 137A. Lower side: 138B.
Pubescence.—No pubescence.
Length of petiole.—2–3 mm.
Color of petiole.—138B.
Petiole surface texture.—Smooth.

The bud:

Peduncle length.—20–40 mm, depending on season.
Peduncle shape.—Long and threadlike.
Size of the bud.—Length: 3 mm. Diameter: 3 mm.
Shape.—Oval.
Color.—141B.
Sepals.—Color: 141B. Form: Star-shaped. Number: 5, parted. Size: 1–2 mm. Shape: Elliptic, apex acute.
Margin: Entire. *Texture:* Smooth.

The flower:

Flower width.—16–18 mm.
Flower length.—18–22 mm.
Flower depth.—8–10 mm.
Flower aspect.—Tipped upward and outward.
Borne.—Solitary.
Form.—Zygomorphic, five lobed, double nectar spur.
Cluster.—Raceme.
Color.—Upper surface: 63A. Lower surface: 63B.
Overlapping of the petals.—Separate.
Number of petals.—Five.
Shape of the petals.—Two upper banner petals, two lateral petals and one larger basal lip petal. Base of two banner petals form a small yellow indentation (color yellow 9A) just above the reproductive organs. Center of two lateral petals form curved nectar spurs. Rounded lip petal is much larger and forms a nearly horizontal ‘platform’.

Petal margin.—Entire.
Petal surface texture.—Smooth.
Size of the banner petals.—Length: 4–6 mm. Width: 6–9 mm.
Size of the lateral petals.—Length: 4–6 mm. Width: 5–7 mm.
Size of the basal lip petal.—Length: 12–14 mm. Width: 12–14 mm.
Spur.—Length: 8 mm. Color: Greyed purple 180B.
Number of flowers per raceme.—35–50.
Fragrance.—No fragrance.
Lastingness of the bloom.—New florets continue to open in one raceme over a period of 18 days.
Lastingness of one flower.—About 5 days depending on temperature.

The reproductive organs:

Androecium.—Stamen number: Three. Anther shape: Two-lobed. Anther size: Less than 1 mm. Anther color: Yellow 7B. Amount of pollen: Very much pollen. Pollen color: Yellow 7B.
Gynoecium.—Pistil number: 1. Stigma shape: Rounded. Pistil length: 2–3 mm. Style color: Green 144A. Stigma color: Green white 157A. Ovary color: Green 144A.

The seed:

Seedset.—No seedset has been observed.

The roots:

Type of roots.—Fibrous.
Rooting habit.—Fine and freely branching.

Physiological and ecological characteristics: Good tolerance to heat and cold. Strong resistance to pests and diseases.

What is claimed is:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of Diascia plant named ‘Diastonia,’ as substantially illustrated and described herein.

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