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Hofmann

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(54) **NEW GUINEA IMPATIENS PLANT NAMED ‘FISNICS LILAV’**

(50) Latin Name: *Impatiens hawkeri*
Varietal Denomination: **Fisnics Lilav**

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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 ‘Fisnics Lilav’, characterized by its outwardly spreading and uniformly mounded plant habit; medium to tall growth habit; freely branching and freely flowering habit; large medium green-colored leaves; and large, rounded and light purple-colored flowers with white-colored centers that are positioned above and beyond the foliage.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Botanical classification/cultivar designation: *Impatiens hawkeri* cultivar Fisnics Lilav.

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 name ‘Fisnics Lilav’.

The new Impatiens is a product of a planned breeding program conducted by the Inventor in Hillscheid, Germany and Galder, Gran Canaria, Spain. The objective of the breeding program is to develop new medium-sized Impatiens cultivars with an early to medium flowering response and large rounded flowers with attractive coloration.

The new Impatiens originated from a cross-pollination made by the Inventor during the spring of 1999 of the *Impatiens hawkeri* cultivar Danharwt, not patented, as the female, or seed, parent with the *Impatiens hawkeri* cultivar Dueripinkeye, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 11,320, as the male, or pollen, parent. The cultivar Fisnics Lilav was discovered and selected by the Inventor as a flowering plant within the progeny of the stated cross-pollination in a controlled environment in Galder, Gran Canaria, Spain in April, 2000.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by terminal cuttings taken in Galder, Gran Canaria, Spain, since July, 2000, 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 ‘Fisnics Lilav’. These characteristics in combination distinguish ‘Fisnics Lilav’ as a new and distinct Impatiens cultivar:

1. Outwardly spreading and uniformly mounded plant habit; medium to tall growth habit.
2. Freely branching and freely flowering habit.
3. Large, medium green-colored leaves.

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4. Large, rounded and light purple-colored flowers with white-colored centers that are positioned above and beyond the foliage.

Plants of the new Impatiens can be compared to plants of the female parent, the cultivar Danharwt. In side-by-side comparisons conducted by the Inventor in Hillscheid, Germany, plants of the new Impatiens differed from plants of the cultivar Danharwt in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new Impatiens were larger than plants of the cultivar Danharwt.
2. Plants of the new Impatiens had larger flowers than plants of the cultivar Danharwt.
3. Flowers of plants of the new Impatiens were light purple in color whereas flowers of plants of the cultivar Danharwt were white in color.

Plants of the new Impatiens can be compared to plants of the male parent, the cultivar Dueripinkeye. In side-by-side comparisons conducted by the Inventor in Hillscheid, Germany, plants of the new Impatiens differed from plants of the cultivar Dueripinkeye in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new Impatiens and the cultivar Dueripinkeye differed in leaf and leaf venation coloration.
2. Flowers of plants of the new Impatiens were light purple in color whereas flowers of plants of the cultivar Dueripinkeye were white to very pale light purple in color.

Plants of the new Impatiens can also be compared to plants of the cultivar Balcelilae, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 11,922. In side-by-side comparisons conducted by the Inventor in Hillscheid, Germany, plants of the new Impatiens differed from plants of the cultivar Balcelilae in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new Impatiens were larger than plants of the cultivar Balcelilae.
2. Plants of the new Impatiens had larger and deeper green-colored leaves than plants of the cultivar Balcelilae.
3. Plants of the new Impatiens had larger and flatter flowers than plants of the cultivar Balcelilae.
4. Flowers of plants of the new Impatiens were lighter in color than plants of the cultivar Balcelilae.

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 accurately describe the colors of the new Impatiens. The photograph comprises a side perspective view of a typical flowering plant of 'Fisnics Lilav' grown in a container.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The cultivar Fisnics Lilav 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, following observations and measurements describe plants grown in Hillscheid, Germany, under commercial production practice in a glass-covered greenhouse. Rooted young plants were planted in 12-cm containers in late February and the aforementioned photograph and following observations and measurements were taken about 11 weeks later in early May. During the production of the plants, day temperatures were about 18 to 22° C. and night temperatures were about 16 to 18° C. 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 Fisnics Lilav.

Parentage:

Female parent.—*Impatiens hawkeri* cultivar Danharwt, not patented.

Male parent.—*Impatiens hawkeri* cultivar Dueripinkeye, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 11,320.

Propagation:

Type cutting.—Terminal tip cuttings.

Time to initiate roots.—Summer: About 8 to 10 days at 24° C. Winter: About 12 to 15 days at 21° C.

Time to produce a rooted cutting.—Summer: About 15 days at 24° C. Winter: About 18 to 20 days at 21° C.

Root description.—Numerous, fibrous, and freely branching; 158D in color.

Plant description:

General appearance.—Outwardly spreading and uniformly mounded plant growth habit; medium to tall growth habit; freely branching habit, dense and bushy appearance; freely flowering. Moderately vigorous.

Crop time.—From a rooted cutting, about 9 to 10 weeks are required to produce finished flowering plants in 12-cm containers.

Plant height.—About 20 to 25 cm.

Plant diameter or spread.—About 40 to 45 cm.

Lateral branches.—Quantity per plant: About 7 to 8. Length: About 20 to 22 cm. Diameter: About 6 to 7 mm. Internode length: About 4.5 cm. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: 144A to 144B.

Foliage description.—Arrangement: Primarily in whorls. Length: About 15 to 16 cm. Width: About 5 to 6 cm. Shape: Elliptic; relatively large. Apex: Acute to acuminate. Base: Acute. Margin: Serrulate

with ciliation. Texture: Smooth, slightly rugose; glabrous. Color: Developing foliage, upper surface: 143A. Developing foliage, lower surface: 144A. Fully expanded foliage, upper surface: 137A to 137B. Fully expanded foliage, lower surface: 138B. Venation, upper surface: 145A. Venation, lower surface: 145B. Petiole: Length: About 1.5 to 2 cm. Diameter: About 4 mm. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color, upper surface: 145B. Color, lower surface: 145A.

Flower description:

Flower type and flowering habit.—Single, large, rounded, and light purple-colored flowers with white-colored centers. Freely and continuously flowering; usually about 6 to 8 flowers and flower buds per lateral branch. Flowers positioned above and beyond the foliage; flowers typically face parallel to the leaf canopy. Petals not persistent; gynoecium persistent. Flowers not fragrant.

Flower longevity.—Flowers last about 8 to 9 days on the plant.

Flowering season.—Year-round under greenhouse conditions. Plants begin flowering about 9 weeks after planting.

Flower buds.—Length: About 2.3 cm. Diameter: About 1.7 cm. Shape: Ovoid. Color: 75B.

Flower length.—About 7.6 to 782 cm.

Flower width.—About 7.8 to 8 cm.

Flower depth.—About 5 to 10 mm.

Petals.—Quantity: Five per flower, imbricate. Length: Banner petals: About 3.2 cm. Lateral and base petals: About 3.5 to 3.8 cm. Width: Banner petal: About 5.6 cm. Lateral petals: About 3.3 cm. Basal petals: About 4.8 to 5 cm. Shape: Cordate. Apex: Distinctly lobed; emarginate. Base: Attenuate. Margin: Entire. Aspect: Mostly flat. Texture: Smooth; satiny. Color: When opening, upper surface: 84B. When opening, lower surface: 84C. Fully opened, upper surface: 75A; towards the base, 155D, creating a white-colored center; with development, color becoming closer to 75C to 75D. Fully opened, lower surface: 75C.

Spur.—Quantity: One per flower. Length: About 6.5 to 7 cm. Diameter: At apex: About 0.5 mm. At flower: About 3 mm. Aspect: Curved. Color: 145D to 150D.

Peduncles.—Length: About 4.5 to 6 cm. Diameter: About 2 mm. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Strength: Strong, flexible. Color: 144C.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium: Stamen number: Five fused at anthers, hooded; filaments free. Anther length: About 6 mm. Anther shape: Obovate. Anther color: 75D to 155D. Pollen amount: Moderate. Pollen color: 8D. Gynoecium: Pistil quantity: One per flower. Pistil length: About 5 to 6 mm. Stigma color: 18D. Style color: 18D. Ovary: Five-celled. Ovary color: 143C.

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.

Low temperature tolerance: Plants of the new Impatiens have been observed to tolerate night temperatures of 5° C. with 10° C. day temperatures.

It is claimed:

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

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