US00PP14930P2

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

(10) **Patent No.: US PP14,930 P2**
(45) **Date of Patent: Jun. 22, 2004**

(54) **PETUNIA PLANT NAMED 'BALRUFIMLA'**

(50) Latin Name: *Petunia×hybrida*
Varietal Denomination: **Balrufimla**

(75) Inventor: **Kerry M. Strope**, Pismo Beach, CA (US)

(73) Assignee: **Ball Floraplant, a division of Ball Horticultural Company**, West Chicago, IL (US)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 84 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **10/107,714**

(22) Filed: **Mar. 26, 2002**

(51) **Int. Cl.**[7] **A01H 5/00**
(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./356**
(58) **Field of Search** Plt./356

Primary Examiner—Bruce R. Campell
Assistant Examiner—Michelle Kizilkaya
(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Wood, Phillips, Katz, Clark & Mortimer

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct Petunia plant named 'Balrufimla', characterized by its double, light lavender flowers, mounded-trailing habit and dark green leaves.

2 Drawing Sheets

1

Latin name of the genus and species of plant claimed: *Petunia×hybrida*
Variety denomination: 'Balrufimla'

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention comprises a new and distinct Double Petunia plant, botanically known as *Petunia× hybrida,* and hereinafter referred to by the cultivar name 'Balrufimla'.

'Balrufimla' is the result of a planned breeding program with the objective of developing Petunia cultivars with large, double flowers and vigorous mounded-trailing growth habits.

The female parent of 'Balrufimla' was the proprietary *Petunia×hybrida* selection, designated 'BFP-33', (not patented) which exhibits a trailing habit and purple flowers. The male parent of 'Balrufimla' was the proprietary *Petunia×hybrida* selection, designated 'BFP-86', (not patented) which exhibits a trailing habit and pink and white bicolored flowers. The new cultivar was discovered and selected as a single seedling originating from within the progeny of the above stated cross during September 1998 in a controlled environment at Arroyo Grande, Calif. and was initially designated 'BFP-796'.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar has been carried out at Arroyo Grande, Calif. and West Chicago, Ill. by terminal tip cuttings and has demonstrated that the unique characteristics of the new cultivar as herein described are firmly fixed and retained through successive generations of such asexual propagation.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It was found that the cultivar of the present invention:

(a) exhibits fully double, lavender flowers;

(b) forms dark green foliage;

(c) exhibits a good basal branching character; and

(d) exhibits a vigorous mounded-trailing growth habit.

The new cultivar of the present invention can be compared to MarcoPolo™ Adventurer (patent status and denomination unknown by the inventor). However in side-by-side comparisons, plants of the new cultivar are more vigorous, more floriferous and have larger flowers than Marco Polo™ Adventurer.

2

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PHOTOGRAPH

The accompanying photographs show as nearly true as it is reasonably possible to make the same in color illustrations of this type, typical flower and foliage characteristics of the new cultivar. The plants were grown for 12 weeks in a greenhouse at West Chicago, Ill., U.S.A.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The cultivar 'Balrufimla' has not been observed under all possible environmental conditions to date. Accordingly, it is possible that the phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in the environment, such as temperature, light intensity, and day length. The chart used in the identification of colors described herein is the R.H.S. Colour Chart of The Royal Horticultural Society, London, England. The color values were determined on Oct. 15, 2001. The readings were taken between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. under natural daylight conditions.

Plants used for the following descriptions and measurements were grown in 10 cm pots for 12 weeks from rooted cuttings. The plants were produced from cuttings taken from stock plants and grown in a double poly carbonate covered greenhouse under conditions comparable to those used in commercial practice. A soilless growth medium was utilized while temperatures of approximately 55° to 75° F. (13° to 24° C.) during the day and approximately 50° to 60° F. (10° to 16° C.) during the night and light levels of 5,000 to 8,000 footcandles were maintained.

Classification:
Botanical.—*Petunia×hybrida* cultivar 'Balrufimla'.
Percentage:
Female parent.—Proprietary *Petunia×hybrida* variety designated 'BFP-33'.
Male parent.—Proprietary *Petunia×hybrida* variety designated 'BFP-86'.

Propagation:

Type cutting.—Terminal tip.

Time to initiate roots.—Approximately 7 to 10 days.

Time to develop roots.—Approximately 21 to 30 days.

Root description.—Fibrous, branching.

Plant description:

Crop time.—Six to 8 weeks are required to produce a finished plant from rooted cuttings.

Habit of growth.—Moderately vigorous with good basal branching. Pinching improves basal branching.

Form.—Spreading and trailing.

Plant height.—A mature plant, 12 weeks after the planting of a rooted cutting, commonly measures approximately 14 cm from the soil line to the top of the plant plane.

Plant spread.—Approximately 29.7 cm.

Lateral branches.—An average of 5.8 branches per plant, approximately 27 cm in length and 3 mm in diameter, densely pubescent and 146C in color. Internode length at the middle of the branch is approximately 1.1 cm.

Foliage.—Leaves are non-fragrant, single and the arrangement is alternate along the stem becoming opposite at the base of the peduncle. Leaves are ovate with entire margin, acute apex and attenuate base and are at an acute angle to the stem. Upper and lower surfaces are densely pubescent and the margin is densely pubescent. There are approximately 18 leaves per branch. Leaf length is approximately 5.2 cm and width is approximately 3.2 cm. The upper surface of young foliage is lighter and more yellow than 144A and the lower surface is 146B. The upper surface of mature foliage is between 146A and 147A and the lower surface is closest to 146B. Both upper and lower surfaces have pinnate venation closest to 144C. The petiole length is approximately 7 mm, the diameter is approximately 3 mm and the color is closest to 144D.

Flowering description:

Flowering habit.—Freely flowering.

Natural flowering season.—Year round in greenhouse environment and from spring through fall in outdoor garden.

Lastingness of the bloom.—Blooms remain open for approximately 5–7 days.

Flower description:

Type.—Double, solitary, axillary, salverform with pungent fragrance. Flowers are persistent.

Size.—Length (height) is approximately 5.2 cm, width is approximately 7.9 cm.

Corolla.—Eighteen (18) obovate petals with the outer whorl of five petals fused to form corolla tube. All petals have acute apex, entire undulate margin and smooth texture. Petal length from throat is 3.4 cm and width at widest point is 3.2 cm. Color of upper surface is closest to 82B with midvein of 144C. Color of lower surface is 144A with midvein of 144C.

Corolla tube.—Length is approximately 2.9 cm, diameter at distal end is approximately 5 mm and diameter at proximal end is approximately 2.1 cm. Color of outer surface is 144D with venation of 144C, color of inner surface is 144D, with midvein of 144C. Outer surface is moderately pubescent, inner surface is smooth.

Peduncle.—Densely pubescent, an acute angle to the stem, approximately 1.8 cm in length and 2 mm in diameter. Peduncle color is 146C.

Flower bud.—Ovate, elongating as it matures, approximately 3 cm in length and 1.1 cm in diameter at first color.

Sepals.—Five, non-imbricate, approximately 2.3 cm in length, 9 mm in diameter, linear in shape with broadly acute apex and entire, slightly undulate margin. Both surfaces are densely pubescent. The color of the upper surface is 144A and the lower surface is 146B.

Reproductive organs.—Abnormal and not distinguishable.

Seed production: Seed production has not been observed.

Disease resistance: Resistance to pathogens has not been observed.

I claim:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of Petunia plant named 'Balrufimla' substantially as herein shown and described, which:

(a) exhibits double, light lavender flowers;

(b) dark green foliage;

(c) a good basal branching character; and

(d) a vigorous mounded-trailing growth habit.

* * * * *