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Hendarto

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(54) **NEPHROLEPIS FERN PLANT NAMED**
‘TIGER FERN’

(50) Latin Name: *Nephrolepis exaltata*
Varietal Denomination: **Tiger Fern**

(75) Inventor: **Chandra Gunawan Hendarto**, Bogor
(ID)

(73) Assignee: **Exotic Foliage Nursery, Inc**, Miami,
FL (US)

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patent is extended or adjusted under 35
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(58) **Field of Search** **Plt./379**

Primary Examiner—Kent Bell

Assistant Examiner—Louanne Krawczewicz Myers

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—C. A. Whealy

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Nephrolepis* Fern plant named
‘Tiger Fern’, characterized by its upright and outwardly
arching plant habit; vigorous growth habit; durable rachis;
green and yellow green variegated pinnae; and closely-
spaced pinnae; densely foliated.

2 Drawing Sheets

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Botanical classification/cultivar designation: *Nephrolepis*
exaltata cultivar Tiger Fern.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of *Nephrolepis* Fern plant, botanically known as *Nephrol-*
epis exaltata, and hereinafter referred to by the name ‘Tiger
Fern’.

The new *Nephrolepis* fern was discovered by the Inventor
in a controlled environment in Bogor, Indonesia in the spring
of 2000, as a naturally-occurring whole plant mutation of an
unnamed selection of *Nephrolepis exaltata*, not patented.
The new *Nephrolepis* Fern was selected by the Inventor on
the basis of its unique pinnae variegation.

Since 2000, asexual reproduction by divisions of the new
cultivar in a controlled environment in Bogor, Indonesia, has
shown that the unique features of this new *Nephrolepis* Fern
are stable and retained through more than 30 successive
generations of asexual reproduction.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and
are determined to be the unique characteristics of ‘Tiger
Fern’. These characteristics in combination distinguish
‘Tiger Fern’ as a new and distinct cultivar of *Nephrolepis*
Fern:

1. Upright and outwardly arching plant habit.
2. Vigorous growth habit.
3. Durable rachis; plants resist breakage during shipping.
4. Green and yellow green variegated pinnae.
5. Closely-spaced pinnae; densely foliated.

The new *Nephrolepis* Fern is most similar to the parent,
the unnamed selection of *Nephrolepis exaltata*. However in
side-by-side comparisons conducted in Bogor, Indonesia
and Miami, Fla., plants of the new *Nephrolepis* Fern differ
from the parent selection primarily in pinnae coloration as
plants of the parent selection have solid green-colored
pinnae.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying colored photographs illustrate the
overall appearance of the new *Nephrolepis* Fern 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 *Nephrolepis* Fern.

The photograph on the first sheet comprises a side per-
spective view of a typical hanging basket plant of ‘Tiger
Fern’.

The photograph on the second sheet comprises a close-up
view of a typical frond of ‘Tiger Fern’.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The cultivar Tiger Fern has not been observed under all
possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary
somewhat with variations in environment such as tempera-
ture and light intensity without, however, any variance in
genotype. The aforementioned photographs and following
observations and measurements describe plants grown in
Miami, Fla., under commercial practice in a shaded
polyethylene-covered greenhouse. During the production of
the plants, day temperatures ranged from 18 to 30° C. and
night temperatures ranged from 2 to 15° C. Rooted young
plants were planted in 25-cm hanging basket containers and
were about four months old when the photographs and the
description were taken. 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: *Nephrolepis exaltata* cultivar Tiger
Fern.

Parentage: Naturally-occurring whole mutation of an
unnamed selection of *Nephrolepis exaltata*, not patented.

Propagation:

Type.—By divisions.

Time to initiate roots.—Summer: About 10 days at 24°
C. Winter: About 14 days at 18° C.

Time to produce a rooted young plant.—Summer: About 40 days at 24° C. Winter: About 60 days at 18° C.

Root description.—Fine; numerous.

Plant description:

Plant/growth habit.—Upright and outwardly arching; symmetrical; appropriate for 25-cm hanging baskets; vigorous; rapid growth rate.

Plant height, soil level to top of plant plane.—About 26 cm.

Plant width.—About 68 cm.

Frond description.—Leaf arrangement: One-pinnate.

Frond length: About 47 cm. Frond width (widest point): About 15 cm. Rachis diameter: About 2.25 mm. Rachis strength: Strong, durable; rachis resist breakage during shipping. Rachis aspect: Outwardly arching. Rachis texture: Pubescent. Rachis color: Towards the apex, close to 146A; towards the base, close to 146A overlain with close to 183A.

Pinnate description.—Shape: Linear. Length: About 7.7 cm. Width: About 1.4 cm. Quantity of pinnae: Numerous, about 60 per frond. Margin: Finely crenate. Apex: Acute. Base: Truncate, asymmetrical.

Aspect: Slightly reflexed. Surface: Undulate. Attachment: Sessile. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Glabrous; smooth. Venation pattern: Pinnate. Color: Developing and fully expanded pinnae, upper surface: Alternating sectors of more green than 146A and close to 151A to close to 154A; sectors random and vary in shape and size. Developing and fully expanded pinnae, lower surface: Alternating sectors of close to 146B and more green than 151A to close to 154A; sectors random and vary in shape and size. Venation, upper and lower surfaces: Same as lamina.

Spores.—None observed.

Disease/pest resistance: Resistance to pathogens and pests common to *Nephrolepis exaltata* has not been observed on plants of the new *Nephrolepis* Fern.

Temperature tolerance: Plants of the new *Nephrolepis* Fern have been observed to tolerate temperatures from 1 to 32° C.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Nephrolepis* Fern plant, named 'Tiger Fern', substantially as shown and described.

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