



US00PP15556P2

**(12) United States Plant Patent**  
**Boeder****(10) Patent No.: US PP15,556 P2**  
**(45) Date of Patent: Feb. 15, 2005****(54) CHRYSANTHEMUM PLANT NAMED**  
**'HERCULES'****(50) Latin Name: *Chrysanthemum morifolium***  
**Varietal Denomination: Hercules****(75) Inventor: Mark Roland Boeder, The Hague**  
**(NL)****(73) Assignee: Chrysanthemum Breeders**  
**Association, N.v. (NL)****(\*) Notice:** Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 18 days.**(21) Appl. No.: 10/756,300****(22) Filed: Jan. 14, 2004****(51) Int. Cl.<sup>7</sup> ..... A01H 5/00****(52) U.S. Cl. .... Plt./293****(58) Field of Search ..... Plt./293***Primary Examiner*—Bruce R. Campell*Assistant Examiner*—S. B. McCormick-Ewoldt**(74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm**—Parkhurst & Wendel, L.L.P.**(57) ABSTRACT**

A *chrysanthemum* plant named 'Hercules' characterized by its medium sized blooms with red ray florets and prolific branching; natural season flower date August 18–23; blooming for a period of 5 weeks.

**2 Drawing Sheets****1****BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

'Hercules' is a product of a breeding and selection program for outdoor pot mums (garden mums) which had the objective of creating new *chrysanthemum* cultivars with a decorative type flower, a natural season flower date around August 18–23; blooming for a period of 5 weeks. The new plant of the present invention comprises a new and distinct cultivar of *Chrysanthemum* plant 'Hercules' is a seedling resulting from the open pollination among groups of *chrysanthemum* cultivars maintained under the control of the inventor for breeding purposes. The new and distinct cultivar was discovered and selected as one flowering plant by Mark Roland Boeder on a cultivated field in Rijshout Holland in August 2001. The seedling resulted from the crossing of the female parent, 22.0296, with a mixed population of *chrysanthemum* plants serving as male parents. The plant has been asexually reproduced by cuttings in greenhouses at Rijshout Holland. The new cultivar has been found to retain its distinctive characteristics through successive propagations.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

The present invention of a new and distinct variety of *chrysanthemum* is shown in the accompanying drawings, the color being as nearly true as possible with color photographs of this type.

FIG. 1 shows a plant of the cultivar in full bloom.

FIG. 2 shows the various stages of bloom and foliage of the new cultivar.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION**

This new variety of *chrysanthemum* is of the botanical classification *Chrysanthemum morifolium*. The observations and measurements were gathered from plants grown out door in Rijshout, Holland under natural day length and temperature and planted in week 23 in 2002. The natural blooming date of this crop was August 18–23 (week 34). The average height of the plants was 30 cms. No growth retardants were used. No tests were done on disease or insect resistance or susceptibility. No tests were done on cold or drought tolerance. This new variety produces medium sized

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blooms with red ray florets blooming for a period of 5 weeks.

From the cultivars known to inventor the most similar existing cultivar in comparison to 'Hercules' is 'Dark Grenadine' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 7,632). When 'Dark Grenadine' and 'Hercules' are being compared the following differences are noticed: The differences of 'Dark Grenadine' and 'Hercules' are (1) Flower size. The flowers of 'Dark Grenadine' are larger in size than those of 'Hercules' (2) Color ray florets. The ray florets of 'Dark Grenadine' are less red than 'Hercules'.

The following is a description of the plant and characteristics that distinguish 'Hercules' as a new and distinct variety.

The color designations are taken from the plant itself. Accordingly, any discrepancies between the color designations and the colors depicted in the photographs are due to photographic tolerances. The color chart used in this description is: The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, edition 1995.

**TABLE 1**

Botanical Description of cultivar 'Hercules'

Bud	
Size	Small; cross-section 1 cm, height 1 cm
Outside color	Yellow-green 147D
Involucral bracts	2 rows, length 7 mm, width 3 mm
Involucral bracts among disc-florets	Not present
Involucral bracts color	Green 138A
Bloom	
Type	Decorative
Size	Medium
Fully expanded	5 cm
Peduncle length	5 cm
Peduncle color	Yellow-green 148B
Number of blooms per branch	Approx. 12 blooms per branch
Performance on the plant	5 weeks
Seeds	Produced in small quantities, ovate grey-brown 199A, 1½ mm in length.
Fragrance	Typical <i>chrysanthemum</i> , slightly

TABLE 1-continued

Botanical Description of cultivar 'Hercules'	
<u>Color</u>	
Center of the flower	Immature Red 46A Mature Red 46A
Color of upper surface of the ray-florets	Red 46C
Color of the lower surface of the ray-florets	Orange-red 34C
Tonality from distance	A garden mum with red flowers
Color of ray florets after aging of the flowers	Red 46D
<u>Ray florets</u>	
Texture	Upper and under side smooth
Number	250
Cross-section	Flat
Longitudinal axis of majority	Straight
Length of corolla tube	0.2 cm
Ray-floret margin	Entire
Ray-floret length	2 cm
Ray-floret width	0.6 cm
Ratio length/width	Medium
Shape of tip	Rounded
Disc florets	Absent
Receptacle shape	Domed raised
<u>Reproductive Organs</u>	
Stamen	Absent
Pollen	Not produced
Styles	Thick
Style color	Yellow 13A
Style length	4 mm
Stigma color	Yellow-green 144A
Stigma width	1 mm
Ovaries	Enclosed in calyx
<u>Plant</u>	
Form	A garden mum outdoor mounded and round
Growth habit	Compact and spreading
Growth rate	Strong
Height	30 cm
Width	40 cm
Stem color	Yellow-green 148A with streaks of Greyed-red 181C
Stem strength	Strong
Stem brittleness	Not brittle
Stem anthocyanin	Present
Coloration	
Internode length	2.5 cm

TABLE 1-continued

Botanical Description of cultivar 'Hercules'	
Length of lateral branch	From top to bottom 19 cm
Lateral branch color	Yellow-green 148A
Lateral branch, attachment	Strong
Branching (average number of lateral branches)	Good with 10 breaks after pinching
Natural season blooming date	August 18-23
<u>Foliage</u>	
Leaf color	Upper side Yellow-green 147A Under side Green 138B
Color midvein	Upper side Green 138C Under side Yellow-green 148C
Size	Medium; length 5.5 cm, width 3.3 cm
Quantity (number per lateral branch)	15-18
Shape	Cordiform
Texture upper side	Glabrous
Texture under side	Pubescent
Venation arrangement	Palmate
Shape of the margin	Serrated
Shape of base of sinus	Rounded
Between lateral lobes	
Margin of sinus between lateral lobes	Diverging
Shape of base	Obtuse
Apex	Mucronate
Petiole length	1 cm
Petiole color	Green 138C

TABLE 2

<u>Differences with the comparison variety</u>		
	'Hercules'	'Dark Grenadine'
Flower size	5 cm	7 cm
Color ray florets	Red 46C	Greyed-red 179A

I claim:

1. A new and distinct variety of *chrysanthemum* plant as described and illustrated.

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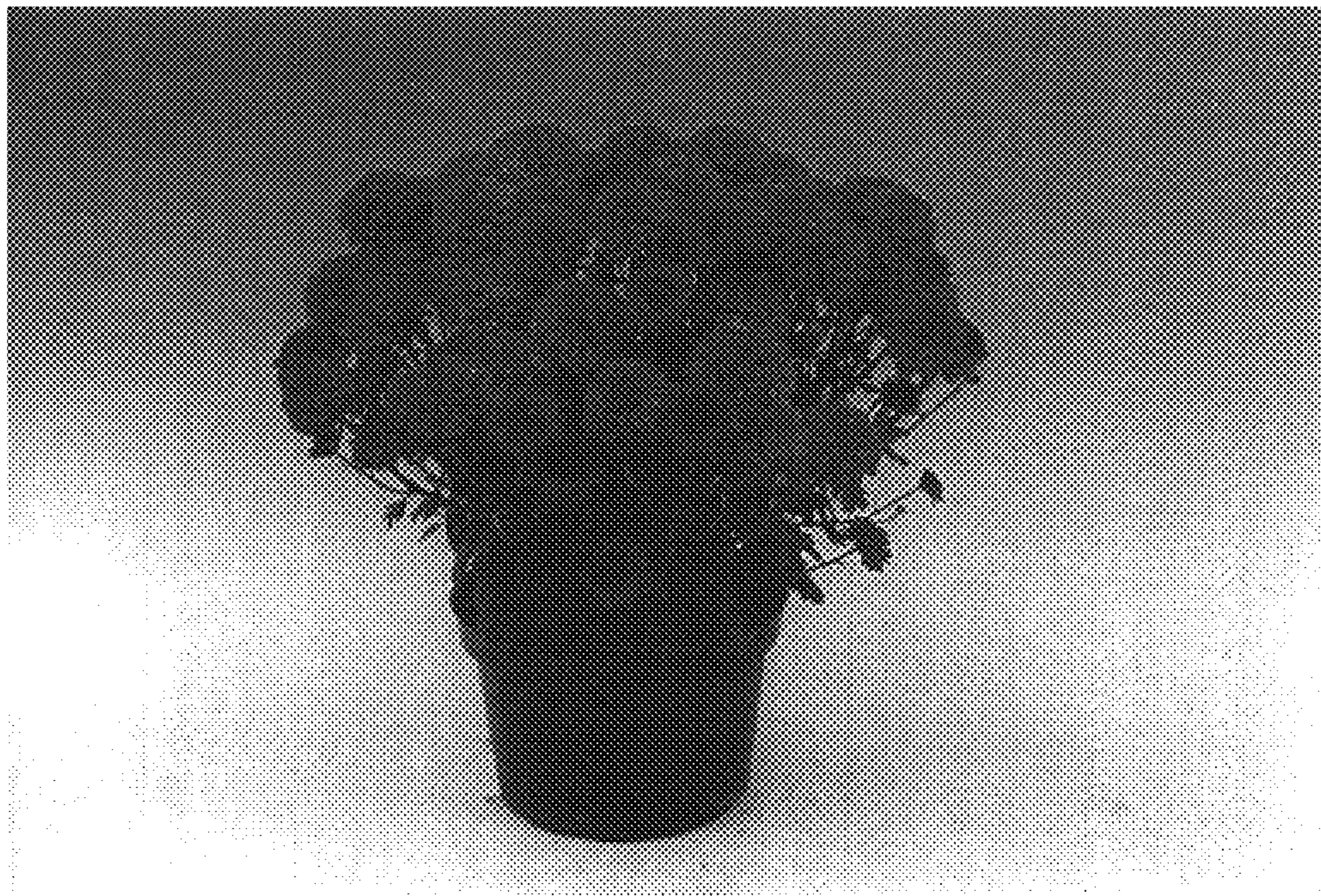


FIG. 1

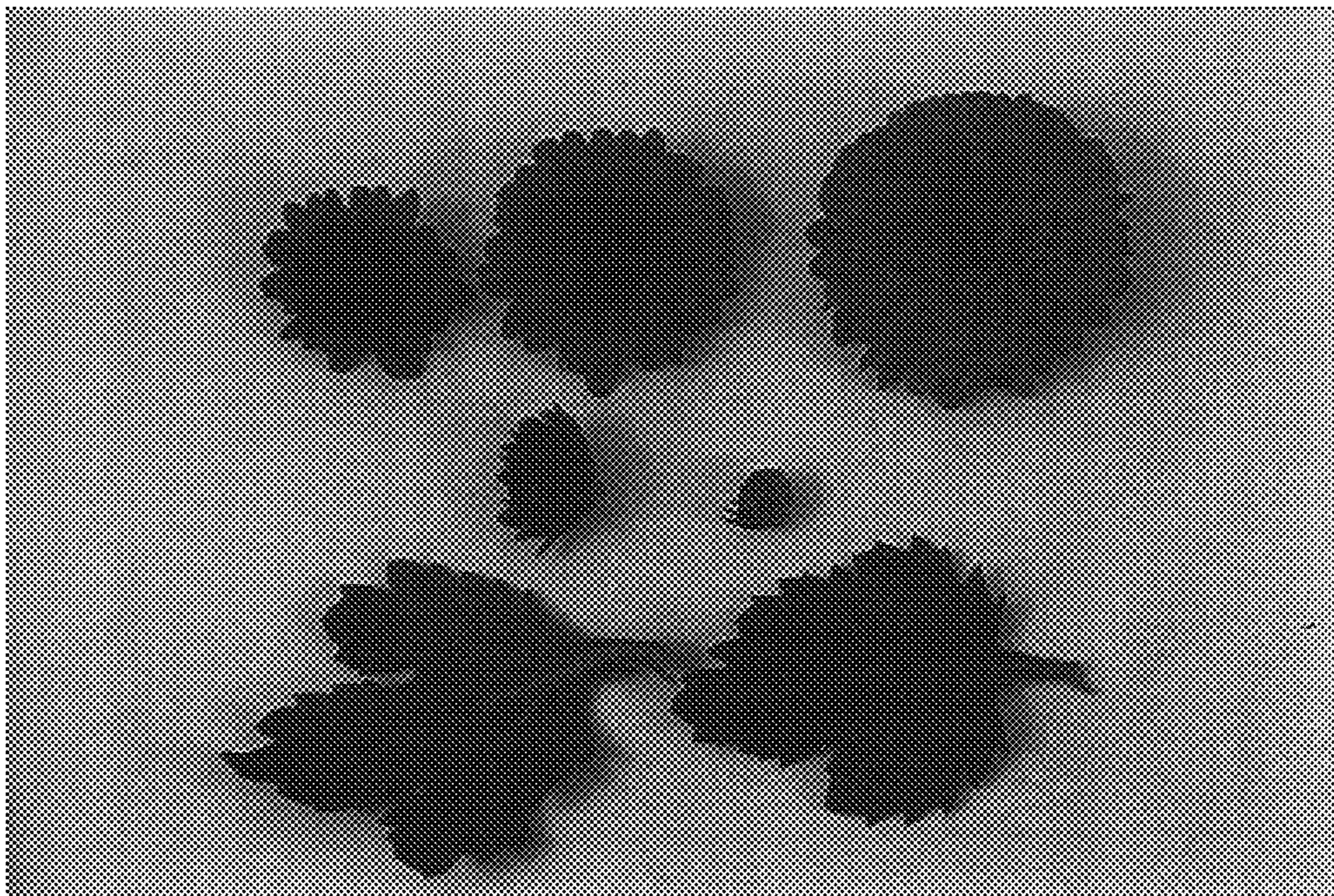


FIG. 2