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Brouwer

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(54) **SPATHIPHYLLUM PLANT NAMED 'JUNIOR'**

(50) Latin Name: *Spathiphyllum* hybrid
Varietal Denomination: **Junior**

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patent is extended or adjusted under 35
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(51) **Int. Cl.**⁷ **A01H 5/00**

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./364**

(58) **Field of Search** **Plt./364**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Spathiphyllum* plant named
'Junior', characterized by its compact, upright and out-
wardly arching plant habit; freely clumping growth habit;
broad dark green-colored leaves; white-colored spathes and
creamy white-colored spadices that are positioned above the
foliage on strong and erect peduncles; and good postpro-
duction longevity.

2 Drawing Sheets

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Botanical classification/cultivar designation: *Spathiphyllum* hybrid cultivar Junior.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present Invention relates to a new and distinct culti-
var of *Spathiphyllum* plant, botanically known as *Spathi-
phyllum* hybrid, and hereinafter referred to by the cultivar
name Junior.

The new cultivar is a product of a planned and controlled
breeding program conducted by the Inventor in Nootdorp,
The Netherlands. The objective of the breeding program is
to create new compact *Spathiphyllum* cultivars with dark
green foliage, freely flowering habit and spathes held above
the foliage.

The new cultivar originated from a cross-pollination made
by the Inventor in June, 1998 of the *Spathiphyllum* hybrid
cultivar Jetty, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 9,957, as the
female or seed parent and a proprietary *Spathiphyllum*
hybrid selection identified as code number 117, not patented,
as the male or pollen parent. The cultivar Junior was
discovered and selected by the Inventor as a single plant
within the progeny of the stated cross-pollination in a
controlled environment in Nootdorp, The Netherlands, in
May, 1999.

Asexual propagation of the new cultivar by tissue culture
since May, 1999, in a laboratory in Nootdorp, The
Netherlands, has shown that the unique features of this new
Spathiphyllum plant are stable and reproduced true to type in
successive generations of asexual propagation.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The new *Spathiphyllum* 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 following traits have been repeatedly observed and
are determined to be the unique characteristics of 'Junior'.
These characteristics in combination distinguish 'Junior' as
a new and distinct *Spathiphyllum* cultivar:

1. Compact, upright and outwardly arching plant habit.
2. Freely clumping growth habit.

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3. Broad dark green-colored leaves.

4. White-colored spathes and creamy white-colored spadi-
ces that are positioned above the foliage on strong
and erect peduncles.

5. Good postproduction longevity.

Plants of the new *Spathiphyllum* are most similar to plants
of the female parent, the cultivar Jetty. In side-by-side
comparisons conducted in Nootdorp, The Netherlands,
plants of the new *Spathiphyllum* differed from plants of the
cultivar Jetty in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Spathiphyllum* were more compact
than plants of the cultivar Jetty.
2. Plants of the new *Spathiphyllum* had shorter leaves than
plants of the cultivar Jetty.
3. Spathes of plants of the new *Spathiphyllum* were whiter
in color than spathes of plants of the cultivar Jetty.

Plants of the new *Spathiphyllum* can be compared to
plants of the male parent, the proprietary selection identified
as code number 117. In side-by-side comparisons conducted
in Nootdorp, The Netherlands, plants of the new *Spathiphyll-
um* differed from plants of the male parent selection in the
following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Spathiphyllum* were more compact
than plants of the male parent selection.
2. Plants of the new *Spathiphyllum* had more rounded
leaves than plants of the male parent selection.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying colored photographs illustrate the
overall appearance of the new cultivar, showing the colors as
true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in colored repro-
ductions of this type. Colors in the photographs may differ
slightly from the color values cited in the detailed botanical
description which accurately describe the colors of the new
Spathiphyllum.

The photograph on the first sheet comprises a side per-
spective view of a typical plant of 'Junior' grown in a
container.

The photograph at the top of the second sheet is a close-up
view of a typical leaf of 'Junior'.

The photograph at the bottom of the second sheet is a close-up view of a typical inflorescence of 'Junior'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The aforementioned photographs and following observations and measurements describe seven month old plants (from planting rooted tissue-cultured plantlets) grown in Nootdorp, The Netherlands, in a glass-covered greenhouse and under commercial production conditions in 12-cm containers with one plant per container. During the production of the plants, day temperatures were about 22° C. and night temperatures were about 20° C.

In the following description, color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 2001 Edition, except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

Botanical classification: *Spathiphyllum* hybrid cultivar Junior.

Parentage:

Female parent.—*Spathiphyllum* hybrid cultivar Jetty, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 9,957.

Male parent.—Proprietary *Spathiphyllum* hybrid selection identified as code number 117, not patented.

Propagation:

Type.—By tissue culture.

Time to initiate roots on a tissue-cultured cutting.—About three weeks at 20 to 22° C.

Time to produce a fully-rooted tissue-cultured plantlet.—About seven weeks at 20 to 22° C.

Root description.—Primary roots, thick and fleshy; lateral branch roots, finer; primary and lateral roots white in color and abundant.

Plant description:

Plant shape.—Compact, upright and outwardly arching plant habit; inverted triangle.

Growth habit.—Erect when young, becoming outwardly arching as leaves develop. Freely clumping; about five clumps per plant; moderately vigorous.

Plant height.—About 39 cm from soil level to top of leaf plane and about 47 cm from soil level to spathe apices.

Plant spread.—About 52 cm.

Foliage description.—Length: About 20.6 cm. Width: About 11.6 cm. Shape: Ovate. Apex: Apiculate. Base: Obtuse to attenuate. Margin: Entire; slightly undulate. Aspect: Initially upright, then outwardly arching. Surface: Midrib and lateral veins sunken on upper surface and prominent on lower surface; upper surface of blade convex between veins, lower surface of blade concave between veins; upper and lower surfaces rugose. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Somewhat leathery; glabrous and smooth. Venation pattern: Pinnate. Color: Developing leaves, upper surface: Between 137A and 139A. Developing leaves, lower surface: 137C. Fully expanded leaves, upper surface: Darker than 139A. Fully expanded leaves, lower surface: 137A. Midvein and lateral

veins, upper surface: Darker than 139A. Midvein and lateral veins, lower surface: 144B. Petiole: Length: About 13 cm. Diameter, just below the geniculum: About 3.5 mm. Diameter, at soil level: About 7 mm. Geniculum length: About 2.8 mm. Geniculum diameter: About 4 mm. Geniculum aspect: Straight to slightly curved. Wing length: About 10.8 cm. Wing diameter: About 6.5 mm. Color: Petiole: 137A to 137B. Geniculum: 139B to 144C. Wing: 137A to 139A.

Inflorescence description:

Inflorescence arrangement/quantity.—Concave spathes with spadices held above the foliage on strong and erect peduncles. About three open spathes per plant at one time; inflorescences arise from the petiole sheath.

Time to flower.—Plants start flowering about six months after planting rooted tissue-cultured plantlets.

Inflorescence longevity.—Spathes generally maintain white color for more than three weeks on the plant.

Fragrance.—Faintly fragrant; sweet, pleasant.

Inflorescence buds.—Length: About 8 cm. Diameter: About 1 cm. Shape: Columnar. Color: Close to 155A.

Spathe.—Length: About 13.4 cm. Width: About 5.1 cm. Shape: Elliptic. Apex: Apiculate. Base: Oblique. Aspect: Concave. Texture, front and rear surfaces: Slightly leathery; glabrous and smooth. Color: When developing front surface: 155C. When developing, rear surface: 157B. Fully developed, front surface: 155C. Fully developed, rear surface: 155C; towards center, 157B.

Spadix.—Length: About 6.3 cm. Diameter: About 1.6 cm. Shape: Columnar with obtuse apex. Color, immature: 158B to 158C. Color, mature: Between 158B to 158C to 160D.

Flowers.—Quantity per spadix: About 120. Diameter: About 2.5 mm. Shape: Rounded. Color: 158D. Staminate flowers: Anther color: 158D. Amount of pollen: Moderate to abundant. Pollen color: 159D. Pistillate flowers: Shape Conical; pistillate flowers extend beyond the staminate flowers. Stigma color: 158B to 158C. Ovary color: 158B to 158C.

Scapes.—Length: About 34.5 cm. Diameter: About 4 mm. Aspect: Erect to about 10° from vertical. Strength: Strong. Color: 137B.

Fruit/seed.—Fruit and seed production have not been observed.

Disease/pest resistance: Plants of the new *Spathiphyllum* have not been observed to be resistant to pathogens or pests common to *Spathiphyllum*.

Temperature tolerance: Plants of the new *Spathiphyllum* have been observed to tolerate temperatures from 14 to 27° C.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Spathiphyllum* plant named 'Junior', as illustrated and described.

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