



US00PP15760P2

**(12) United States Plant Patent**  
**Stemkens****(10) Patent No.: US PP15,760 P2**  
**(45) Date of Patent: May 10, 2005****(54) VERBENA×HYBRIDA PLANT NAMED**  
**'ARBENA'****(50) Latin Name: *Verbena×hybrida***  
**Varietal Denomination: Arbena****(75) Inventor: Henricus Stemkens, Hoorn (NL)****(73) Assignee: Syngenta Seeds B.V., Enkhuizen (NL)****(\*) Notice:** Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 45 days.**(21) Appl. No.: 10/796,682****(22) Filed: Mar. 8, 2004****(51) Int. Cl.<sup>7</sup> ..... A01H 5/00****(52) U.S. Cl. .... Plt./308****(58) Field of Search ..... Plt./308****(56) References Cited**  
**PUBLICATIONS**<http://www.zahradaweb.cz/projekt/clanek.asp?pid=2&cid=2293>.\*

UPOV ROM 2004/02.\*

\* cited by examiner

*Primary Examiner*—Anne Marie Grunberg*Assistant Examiner*—Annette H Para**(74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm**—Edouard G. Lebel**(57) ABSTRACT**A new and distinct variety of *Verbena* plant particularly distinguished by its bicolor flower, red in the center of the flower towards pink on the edge, very early flowering and a spreading habit that is first semi-erect and later spreading.**1 Drawing Sheet****1**Latin name of the genus and species of the plant claimed:  
*Verbenaxhybrida*.

Varietal denomination: 'Arbena'.

**BACKGROUND OF THE NEW PLANT**

The present invention comprises a new distinct cultivar of *Verbena*, botanically known as *Verbenaxhybrida*. The new cultivar is propagated from cuttings resulting from the cross of 'Y699' and 'A713'. 'Y699' is a scarlet flowering *Verbena* having a spreading habit. 'Y699' is not commercially available and is not known by any synonyms. 'A713' is a pink flowering *Verbena* having an erect habit. 'A713' is not commercially available and is not known by any synonyms. Neither 'Y699' or 'A713' has been patented. As a result of this cross the present cultivar was created in 1999 in Enkhuizen, Netherlands and has been repeatedly asexually reproduced by cuttings in Enkhuizen, Netherlands and Sarrians, France over a three year period. It has been found to retain its distinctive characteristics through successive propagations, and this novelty appears to be firmly fixed. 'Arbena' is closely related to the patented variety 'Scarlena', from which it differs in flowercolor and earliness.

This new *Verbena* plant is an annual in most climatical zones in the United States, only in zones 8, 9 and 10 it is a perennial plant.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING**

This new *Verbena* plant is illustrated by the accompanying photographic drawing which shows blooms, buds and foliage of the plant in full color, the color shown being as true as can be reasonably obtained by conventional photographic procedures.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW CULTIVAR**

The following detailed descriptions set forth the distinctive characteristics of this new *Verbena*. The data which defines these characteristics were collected from asexual reproductions carried out in Enkhuizen, Netherlands. The

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plant history was taken on 13 weeks old plants, blossomed under natural light in a greenhouse. Color readings were taken in the greenhouse under ambient light. Color references are primarily to The R.H.S. Color Chart of The Royal Horticultural Society of London.

Specification of differences with parents and most resembling variety

Character	'Arbena'	'Y699'	'A713'	'Scarlena'
Flowercolor	bicolor, red to pink	scarlet	pink	scarlet
Earliness	very early	early	late	early
Seedset	no	no	much	no
Leafsize	medium	large	medium	medium

**The Plant**Classification — Botanical: *Verbenaxhybrida*.**Parentage:***Female parent.*—A seedling named 'Y699' is one of our seedlings from our Y-generation of plants bred in 1995.*Pollen parent.*—A seedling named 'A713' is one of our seedlings from our A-generation of plants bred in 1997.

Growth habit: Semi-erect, later spreading.

Plant height: 12–15 cm.

Spreading area of plant: 55–85 cm.

Growth rate: Hanging and vigorous.

Strength: Resistant to hot and cool weather.

Branching character: Freely branching and lateral branching at every node.

Blooming period: From April till November.

**The Stem**

Diameter: 2–2.5 mm.

Shape: Tetragonal.

Anthocyan pigmentation: Absent.

Color of the stem: 141 B.  
 Length of internode: 24–55 mm, depending on the light where the plant is propagated.  
 Pubescence: Pubescence is present.

#### The Foliage

Phyllotaxis: Opposite.  
 Shape of blade: Broadly ovate.  
 Texture:  
*Upper side.*—Pubescent.  
*Lower side.*—Pubescent.  
 Venation: Pinnate.  
 Leaf margin: Simple incised.  
 Leaf base: Shortley attenuate.  
 Leaf apex: Apiculate.  
 Length: 25–40 mm.  
 Width: 20–34 mm.  
 Depth of incision: 2–3 mm.  
 Color:  
*Upper side.*—Dark green 137C.  
*Lower side.*—Light green 138A.  
 Pubescence: Some pubescence is present.  
 Length of leaf stem: 5–10 mm.  
 Petiole surface structure: Slightly pubescent.

#### The Bud

Peduncle length: 40–70 mm, depending on season.  
 Size:  
*Diameter.*—2 mm.  
*Length.*—8–12 mm.  
 Shape: Elongated and ovate.  
 Color: Medium green 137D.  
 Sepals:  
*Colour.*—Light green 138B.  
*Form.*—Upright.  
*Number.*—5, fused.  
*Size.*—5 mm.  
*Shape.*—Elongated.

#### The Flower

Facing direction: Upward.  
 Outward curvature of petal: Medium curved.  
 Diameter: 18–20 mm.  
 Height: 17–19 mm.  
 Borne: In a cluster.  
 Form: Salverform; sessile on terminal spikes.  
 Cluster: Spike.  
 Color:  
*Near center.*—Red, N34B, a bit darker.  
*Towards edge.*—Gradually going to Pink, 39B.  
 Eye: Part of all petals is darker (N34A) at the bases.  
 Overlapping of petals: Separate.  
 No. of petals: Gamopetalous, 5lobed.

Shape of the petals: Each petal is heart shaped at the apex and grown together at the base.  
 Petal margin: Entire.  
 Petal surface texture: Smooth.  
 Size of the petal:  
*Length.*—6–9 mm.  
*Width.*—6–8 mm.  
 Spike:  
*Length.*—20–40 mm.  
*Diameter.*—40–50 mm.  
 Calyx: Length of 8–11 mm.  
 Anthocyan pigmentation of calyx limb: Absent.  
 Color of the calyx: Dark green 137B.  
 No. of flowers per spike: 25–35.  
 Fragrance: No fragrance.  
 Lastingness of the bloom: New florets continue to open in one spike over a period of 14 days.

#### Reproductive Organs

Androecium:  
*Stamens quantity.*—4.  
*Anther shape.*—Ovoid.  
*Anther length.*—1 mm.  
*Anther color.*—144C.  
*Pollen amount.*—Scarce pollen.  
*Pollen color.*—145C.  
 Gynoecium:  
*Pistils quantity.*—1.  
*Pistil length.*—1.8 to 2.2 cm.  
*Stigma shape.*—Bi-lobed.  
*Stigma color.*—144D.  
*Style length.*—1.4 to 1.8 cm.  
*Style color.*—144D.  
*Ovary color.*—144C.

No seedset is observed.

#### Roots

Type of roots: Fibrous. Roots start to grow on every part of the stem that contacts the soil, so not only at the nodes.  
 Description of roots: Fibrous, fleshy and white.  
 Rooting habit: Freely branching, dense.  
 Physiological and ecological characteristics: Good tolerance to heat and cold. Strong resistance to pests and diseases, particularly powdery mildew.  
 What is claimed is:  
 1. A new and distinct variety of *Verbena* plant, substantially as herein illustrated and described, characterized particularly as to novelty by larger bicolor flowers than other *Verbena* plants, which are colored from red in the center towards pink on the edge, which appear earlier on the plant, and a growing habit that is first semi-erect but later spreading.

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