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Miyazaki et al.

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

(50) Latin Name: ***Petunia hybrida***
Varietal Denomination: **Sunpimo**

(75) Inventors: **Kiyoshi Miyazaki**, Hikone (JP); **Kazunari Iwaki**, Ohmihachiman (JP); **Takuro Ishihara**, Youkaichi (JP)

(73) Assignee: **Suntory Flowers Limited**, Tokyo (JP)

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(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./356**
(58) **Field of Search** Plt./356

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Primary Examiner—Bruce R. Campell
Assistant Examiner—Michelle Kizilkaya
(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Burns, Doane, Swecker & Mathis, L.L.P.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

Disclosed herein is a new and distinct variety of *Petunia* plant having a decumbent habit and long stems. The *Petunia* plant has abundant branching, and a great profusion of blooms, with the entire plant remaining in bloom for a considerably period of time. The flowers are single and small in size, and the petals are vivid reddish-purple with a lighter pink center. The base color of the corolla throat is yellowish-white and the outside of the corolla tube is yellowish-white. The plant exhibits high resistance to rain, heat, cold and disease.

2 Drawing Sheets

Botanical/commercial classification: *Petunia hybrida/Petunia* Plant.

Varietal denomination: cv. 'Sunpimo'.

BACKGROUND OF THE VARIETY

The present invention relates to a new and distinct variety of *Petunia* plant that originated from the crossing a seedling called '5Pt-30-1' as female parent and a wild type *Petunia* plant named '1796' as male parent that is native to Brazil.

The *Petunia* is a very popular plant that is used for flower bedding and potting in the summer season. There are only a few *Petunia* varieties which do not have an upright growth habit and which have a high resistance to rain, heat, and diseases. The *Petunia* plants such as 'Revolution Purple Pink' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 6,915), 'Revolution Brilliant Pink' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 6,914), 'Revolution Brilliant Pink-Mini' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 6,899), and 'Revolution Blue Vein' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 9,322)) are decumbent type plants having long stems, a low plant height, abundant branching, and a high resistance to heat, rain and disease. However, there are only a few *Petunia* varieties having a great profusion of flowers, softly colored flower petals and a high resistance to rain, heat, and diseases. Accordingly, this invention is aimed at obtaining a new *Petunia* variety having

vivid reddish-purple petals with a light pink center together with the above features.

The '5Pt-30-1' female parent is a strain selected in Japan from a seedling named 'Baccarat Pink' (non-patented in the United States).

In April 1998, crossing of '5Pt-30-1' as female parent and '1796' as pollen parent was conducted at the Omi R&D Center, Flower Division of Suntory Ltd. In January 1999, 120 seedlings were obtained from that crossing. These seedlings were grown in pots in glasshouses and were evaluated. One new variety was selected in view of its decumbent growth habit and its attractive flower color. That seedling was propagated by the use of cuttings from July 1999, and a further evaluation was carried out by flower potting and bedding in March 2000, at the Omi R&D Center, Flower Division of Suntory Ltd. The botanical characteristics of that plant were then examined, using the similar varieties 'Revolution Pink-Mini' and 'Sunpapi' (non-patented in the United States) for comparison. As a result, it was concluded that this *Petunia* plant is distinguishable from all other varieties, whose existence is known to us, and is uniform and stable in its characteristics. The new variety of *Petunia* plant of the present invention was named 'Sunpimo'.

In the following description, the color-coding is in accordance with The R.H.S. Colour Chart of The Royal Horticultural Society, London, England. A color chart based on The Japan Color Standard for Horticultural Plants (J.H.S. Color Chart) is also added for reference.

The main botanical characteristics of the '5Pt-30-1' female parent are as follows:

Plant:
- *Growth habit.*—Medium.
- *Plant height.*—Approximately 15.5 cm.
- *Spreading area of plant.*—Somewhat small.
- *Blooming period.*—April to July in the southern Kanto area, Japan.

Stem:
- *Length.*—Approximately 13.5 cm.
- *Thickness.*—Main stem approximately 2.0 mm.
- *Pubescence.*—Normal.
- *Branching.*—Medium.
- *Length of internode.*—Approximately 2.5 cm.
- *Color.*—Light yellow-green (R.H.S. 145C, J.H.S. 3503).

Leaf:
- *Shape.*—Elliptic. The apex shape is acute, and the base shape is attenuate.
- *Length.*—Approximately 3.8 cm.
- *Width.*—Approximately 2.0 cm.
- *Color.*—Upper-side is dark olive-green (R.H.S. 137A, J.H.S. 3707). Lower-side is moderate yellow-green (R.H.S. 147B, J.H.S. 3513).
- *Pubescence.*—Sparse.

Flower:
- *Facing direction.*—Upward.
- *Type.*—Single.
- *Shape.*—Funnel-shaped, with five fissures.
- *Shape of petal tip.*—Round.
- *Lobation.*—Shallow.
- *Waviness of petal.*—Somewhat weak.
- *Diameter.*—Approximately 5.5 cm.
- *Color.*—Petal: vivid reddish-purple (R.H.S. 74A, J.H.S. 9207) with pale purplish-pink center (R.H.S. 65D, J.H.S. 8902). Base color of the corolla throat: yellowish-white (R.H.S. 1D, J.H.S. 3102). Outside color of the corolla tube: yellowish-white (R.H.S. 1D, J.H.S. 3101).
- *Reproductive organs.*—1 normal pistil and 5 normal stamens. Color of pistil is vivid yellow-green (R.H.S. 144B, J.H.S. 3506). Color of stamens is yellowish-white (R.H.S. 155D, J.H.S. 2501).
- *Peduncle.*—Approximately 1.3 mm in thickness, and approximately 2.0 cm in length.
- *Physiological and ecological characteristics.*—Strong resistance to cold, rain, pests and disease. Moderate resistance to heat.

The main botanical characteristics of the '1796' male parent are as follows:

Plant:
- *Growth habit.*—Decumbent.
- *Plant height.*—Approximately 5.5 cm.
- *Spreading area of plant.*—Large.
- *Blooming period.*—May to August in the southern Kanto area, Japan.

Stem:
- *Length.*—Approximately 16.0 cm.
- *Thickness.*—Approximately 1.5 mm.
- *Pubescence.*—Normal.
- *Branching.*—Abundant.

- *Length of internode.*—Approximately 1.5 cm.
- *Color.*—Light yellow-green (R.H.S. 145C, J.H.S. 3503).

Leaf:
- *Shape.*—Elliptic. The apex is acute, and the base is attenuate.
- *Length.*—Approximately 2.7 cm.
- *Width.*—Approximately 1.7 cm.
- *Color.*—Upper-side is strong yellow-green (R.H.S. 143A, J.H.S. 3711). Lower-side is moderate yellow-green (R.H.S. 147B, J.H.S. 3513).
- *Pubescence.*—Sparse.

Flower:
- *Facing direction.*—Slanted upward.
- *Type.*—Single.
- *Shape.*—Funnel-shaped, with five fissures.
- *Shape of petal tip.*—Round.
- *Lobation.*—Shallow.
- *Waviness of petal.*—Weak.
- *Diameter.*—Approximately 4.1 cm.
- *Color.*—Petal: vivid reddish-purple (R.H.S. 74B, J.H.S. 9206). Base of the corolla; throat: yellowish-white (R.H.S. 159D, J.H.S. 1901). Outside of the corolla tube: yellowish-white (R.H.S. 159D, J.H.S. 1901).
- *Reproductive organs.*—1 normal pistil and 5 normal stamens. Color of pistil is vivid yellow-green (R.H.S. 144B, J.H.S. 3506). Color of the stamens is yellowish-white (R.H.S. 155D, J.H.S. 2501).
- *Peduncle.*—Approximately 1.1 mm in thickness, and approximately 1.8 cm in length.
- *Physiological and ecological characteristics.*—Moderate resistance to pests. Strong resistance to rain, cold, heat and diseases.

The main botanical characteristics of the similar 'Revolution Pink-Mini' variety used for comparison are as follows:

Plant:
- *Growth habit.*—Decumbent.
- *Plant height.*—Approximately 20 cm.
- *Spreading area of plant.*—Large.
- *Blooming period.*—May to August in the southern Kanto area, Japan.

Stem:
- *Length.*—Approximately 15 cm.
- *Thickness.*—Main stem is approximately 2.5 mm.
- *Pubescence.*—Normal.
- *Branching.*—Abundant.
- *Length of internode.*—Approximately 2.0 cm.
- *Color.*—Light yellow-green (R.H.S. 145C, J.H.S. 3503).

Leaf:
- *Shape.*—Elliptic. The apex shape is acute, and the base shape is attenuate.
- *Length.*—Approximately 5.0 cm.
- *Width.*—Approximately 3.0 cm.
- *Color.*—Upper-side is dark olive green (R.H.S. 137A, J.H.S. 3509). Lower-side is moderate yellow-green (R.H.S. 147B, J.H.S. 3513).
- *Pubescence.*—Normal.

Flower:
- *Facing direction.*—Slanted upward.
- *Type.*—Single.
- *Shape.*—Funnel-shaped, with five fissures.
- *Shape of petal tip.*—Round.
- *Lobation.*—Shallow.
- *Waviness of petal.*—Weak.
- *Diameter.*—Approximately 4.5 cm.

Color.—Petal: Vivid reddish-purple (R.H.S. 71D, J.H.S. 9206). Base of the corolla throat is pinkish-white (R.H.S. 69D, J.H.S. 9201). Outside of the corolla tube is strong purplish-pink (R.H.S. 73B, J.H.S. 9204).

Reproductive organs.—1 normal pistil and 5 normal stamens. Color of pistil is vivid yellow-green (R.H.S. 144B, J.H.S. 3506). Color of the stamens is yellowish-white (R.H.S. 155D, J.H.S. 2501).

Peduncle.—Approximately 1.0 mm in thickness, and approximately 2.0 cm in length.

Physiological and ecological characteristics.—Strong resistance to cold, heat, rain and diseases. Moderate resistance to pests.

The main botanical characteristics of the similar 'Sunpapi' variety used for comparison are as follows:

Plant:

Growth habit.—Decumbent.

Plant height.—Approximately 11.5 cm.

Spreading area of plant.—Large.

Blooming period.—April to September in the southern Kanto area, Japan.

Stem:

Length.—Approximately 18.0 cm.

Thickness.—Main stem approximately 3.2 mm.

Pubescence.—Normal.

Branching.—Many.

Length of internode.—Approximately 2.2 cm.

Color.—Light yellow-green (R.H.S. 145C, J.H.S. 3503).

Leaf:

Shape.—Lanceolate. The apex is acute, and the base is attenuate.

Length.—Approximately 6.1 cm.

Width.—Approximately 2.7 cm.

Color.—Upper-side is dark olive-green (R.H.S. 137A, J.H.S. 3707). Lower-side is moderate yellow-green (R.H.S. 147B, J.H.S. 3513).

Pubescence.—Normal.

Flower:

Facing direction.—Slanted upward.

Type.—Single.

Shape.—Funnel-shaped, with five fissures.

Shape of petal tip.—Obtuse.

Lobation.—Shallow.

Waviness of petal.—Weak.

Diameter.—Approximately 6 cm.

Color.—Petal: deep purplish-pink (R.H.S. 68B, J.H.S. 9205). Base of the corolla throat: yellowish-white (R.H.S. 159D, J.H.S. 1901). Outside of the corolla tube: yellowish-white (R.H.S. 159D, J.H.S. 1901).

Reproductive organs.—1 normal pistil and 5 normal stamens. Color of pistil is vivid yellow-green (R.H.S. 144B, J.H.S. 3506). Color of the stamens is yellowish-white (R.H.S. 155D, J.H.S. 2501).

Peduncle.—Approximately 1.4 mm in thickness, and approximately 1.8 cm in length.

Physiological and ecological characteristics.—Strong resistance to cold, heat, rain and diseases. Moderate resistance to pests.

SUMMARY OF THE VARIETY

The new variety of the *Petunia* plant has a decumbent growth habit, and abundant branching and a great profusion of blooms with the entire plant remaining in bloom for a considerable period of time. The flowers are single and small in size. The petal color is vivid reddish-purple with a light pink center. The plant has a high resistance to rain, cold, heat and diseases.

The plants described and depicted herein were propagated by the use of cuttings and were approximately seven months of age. The plants were grown in 30 cm pots and were grown outdoors from April to September and were observed during September. The plants received approximately 100 ppm of nitrogen content fertilizer each week.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

FIG. **1** shows the overall growth habit of the new *Petunia* plant 'Sunpimo' while flowering.

FIG. **2** shows a close view of a typical flower of the new *Petunia* plant 'Sunpimo'.

DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW VARIETY

The botanical characteristics of the new and distinct variety of *Petunia* plant named 'Sunpimo' are as follows when observed during September at Koukaichi-shi, Shiga-ken, Japan at an age of approximately seven months.

Plant:

Growth habit.—Decumbent.

Plant height.—Approximately 18 cm.

Spreading area of plant.—Large.

Blooming period.—Early April to late October in the southern Kanto area, Japan. The plant shape does not change throughout this period. A typical flower commonly lasts approximately 5 days on the plant when experiencing a temperature of approximately 20° C.

Stem:

Length.—Approximately 12 cm.

Thickness.—Approximately 1.5 mm.

Pubescence.—Somewhat dense.

Branching.—Abundant.

Length of internode.—Approximately 2.5 cm.

Color.—Light yellow-green (R.H.S. 145C, J.H.S. 3503).

Leaf:

Shape.—Slightly lanceolate. The apex is acute, and the base is attenuate.

Length.—Approximately 4.0 cm.

Width.—Approximately 2.0 cm.

Color.—Upper side is moderate olive-green (R.H.S. 146A, J.H.S. 3508). Lower side is moderate yellow-green (R.H.S. 137C, J.H.S. 3513).

Thickness.—Approximately 0.8 mm.

Texture.—Smooth.

Margins.—Entire.

Pubescence.—Sparse.

Venation.—Pinnate and R.H.S. 145B in coloration.

Flower:

Facing direction.—Slanted upward.

Type.—Single.

Shape.—Funnel-shaped, with five fissures.

Shape of petal tip.—Round.

Lobation.—Shallow.

Waviness of petal.—Slight as illustrated in FIG. **2**.

Diameter.—Approximately 4.5 cm.

Color.—Petal: vivid reddish-purple (R.H.S. 74B, J.H.S. 9206) with a light pink center (R.H.S. 65B J.H.S. 9203). Base of the corolla throat: yellowish-white (R.H.S. 1D, J.H.S. 3102). Outside of the corolla tube: yellowish-white (R.H.S. 1D, J.H.S. 3102).

Venation.—Generally radiates outwardly from the center and near R.H.S. 145A in coloration. (See FIG. **2**).

Sepals.—R.H.S. 146A on the upper surface and R.H.S. 147B on the lower surface, generally lanceolate in configuration, with an entire margin, approximately 1.5 cm in length, and approximately 3 mm in width at the widest point, and five in number. The calyx is tubular and divides into five sepals.

Reproductive organs.—1 normal pistil and 5 normal stamens. Color of pistil is vivid yellow-green (R.H.S. 144B, J.H.S. 3506). Color of the stamens is yellowish-white (near R.H.S. 155D, J.H.S. 2501). The stigma is elliptical in configuration, R.H.S. 146D in coloration, and approximately 1 to 1.5 mm in length. The style is approximately 1.5 cm in length and R.H.S. 145C in coloration. The ovary is R.H.S. 143B in coloration. Pollen is formed in a quantity that is typical of *Petunia hybrida* and is R.H.S. 11D in coloration.

Peduncle.—Approximately 1 mm in diameter and approximately 2 cm in length, and R.H.S. 146B in coloration. The texture is smooth.

Seeds.—R.H.S. 200B in coloration, approximately 0.7 mm in diameter, and generally round. The quantity is typical of *Petunia hybrida.*

Physiological and ecological characteristics.—High resistance to rain, cold, heat and diseases. Moderate resistance to pests.

This new variety of *Petunia* plant is most suitable for flower bedding and potting, particularly in hanging pots or in planters, and is excellent for use as a ground cover. Pinching of old blossoms will enhance the formation of new blossoms.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct variety of *Petunia* plant, substantially as herein illustrated and described, characterized particularly as to novelty by (A) a decumbent growth habit with long stems, (B) abundant branching with a great profusion of blooms and the entire plant remaining in bloom for a considerable period of time, (C) flowers that are single and small in size having vivid reddish-purple petals with a lighter pink center and a yellowish-white corolla throat, and (D) a high resistance to rain, heat, cold and diseases.

* * * * *

Fig.1

Fig.2