



US00PP16137P2

(12) **United States Plant Patent**
Trees

(10) **Patent No.:** **US PP16,137 P2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Nov. 29, 2005**

(54) **OSTEOSPERMUM PLANT NAMED**
'BALSERPINK'

(50) Latin Name: *Osteospermum ecklonis*
Varietal Denomination: **Balserpink**

(75) Inventor: **Scott C. Trees**, Shell Beach, CA (US)

(73) Assignee: **Ball Horticultural Company**, West
Chicago, IL (US)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this
patent is extended or adjusted under 35
U.S.C. 154(b) by 23 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **11/016,288**

(22) Filed: **Dec. 17, 2004**

(51) **Int. Cl.⁷** **A01H 5/00**

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./360**

(58) **Field of Search** **Plt./360**

Primary Examiner—Kent Bell

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Wood, Phillips, Katz, Clark
& Mortimer

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Osteospermum* plant named
'Balserpink' characterized by its single inflorescence form
with pink-colored ray florets and blue-colored disc florets,
freely branching character, dark green-colored foliage, and
compact and upright growth habit.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Latin name of the genus and species of plant claimed:
Osteospermum ecklonis.

Variety denomination: 'Balserpink'.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of *Osteospermum* plant botanically known as *Osteosper-*
mum ecklonis, and hereinafter referred to by the cultivar
name 'Balserpink'.

The new *Osteospermum* originated in a controlled breed-
ing program in Arroyo Grande, Calif. during July 2002. The
objective of the breeding program was the development of
Osteospermum cultivars that are freely branching, have a
compact and upright growth habit, are freely flowering, and
have unique inflorescence coloration.

The new cultivar was the result of the open-pollination of
the commercial variety of *Osteospermum ecklonis* 'Mira',
U.S. Plant Pat. No. 11,082, characterized by its dark purple-
colored ray florets with darker purple stripes and medium
green-colored foliage. Seed from the above stated open-
pollination was germinated and grown to maturity. One plant
from within the progeny was discovered and selected by the
inventor during November 2002 in a controlled environment
at Arroyo Grande, Calif.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by terminal stem
cuttings since November 2002 at West Chicago, Ill. has
demonstrated that the new cultivar reproduces true to type,
with all the characteristics as herein described, firmly fixed
and retained through successive generations of such asexual
propagation.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The following characteristics of the new cultivar have
been repeatedly observed and can be used to distinguish
'Balserpink' as a new and distinct cultivar of *Osteospermum*
plant:

1. Single inflorescence form with pink-colored ray florets
and blue-colored disc florets.
2. Dark green-colored foliage.
3. Freely branching character.
4. Compact and upright growth habit.

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Plants of the new cultivar differ from plants of the female
parent primarily in inflorescence color and foliage color.

Plants of the new cultivar are most similar to the cultivar
Akavol, not patented. However, in side-by-side
comparisons, plants of the new cultivar differed from plants
of 'Akavol' in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new cultivar are shorter than plants of
'Akavol'.
2. Plants of the new cultivar have shorter internodes than
plants of 'Akavol'.
3. Plants of the new cultivar have different stem coloration
than plants of 'Akavol'.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying photographs show, as nearly true as it
is reasonably possible to make the same in color illustrations
of this type, typical inflorescence and foliage characteristics
of the new cultivar. Colors in the photographs differ slightly
from the color values cited in the detailed description, which
accurately describe the colors of the new cultivar. The plants
were grown in 10 cm pots for 14 weeks in a greenhouse at
West Chicago, Ill.

FIG. 1 illustrates a side view of the overall growth and
flowering habit of the new cultivar with one plant per pot.

FIG. 2 illustrates a close-up view of individual inflores-
cences of the new cultivar showing the change in color as the
disc florets mature.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The new cultivar has not been observed under all possible
environmental conditions to date. Accordingly, it is possible
that the phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in the
environment, such as temperature, light intensity, and day
length without, however, any variance in genotype.

The chart used in the identification of colors described
herein is The R.H.S. Colour Chart of The Royal Horticul-
tural Society, London, England, 2001 edition, except where
color terms of ordinary significance are used. The color
values were determined on Sep. 24, 2004 between 1:00 and
3:00 p.m. under natural light conditions.

The following descriptions and measurements describe plants produced from cuttings taken from stock plants and grown in a double polycarbonate covered greenhouse under conditions comparable to those used in commercial practice. The plants were grown at West Chicago, Ill. in 10 cm pots for 14 weeks while utilizing a soilless growth medium. Greenhouse temperatures were maintained at approximately 60°–75° F. (15°–24° C.) during the day and approximately 45°–55° F. (7°–13° C.) during the night. Greenhouse light levels were maintained at 5,000 to 9,000 footcandles during the day.

Botanical classification: *Osteospermum ecklonis* cultivar Balserpink.

Parentage: Open pollination of the *Osteospermum ecklonis* commercial variety 'Mira', U.S. Plant Pat. No. 11,082.

Propagation:

Type cutting.—Terminal stem.

Time to initiate roots.—Approximately 9 to 12 days.

Time to produce a rooted cutting.—Approximately 21 to 28 days.

Root description.—Fine, fibrous.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching.

Plant description:

Crop time.—Approximately 10–13 weeks from a rooted cutting in a 10 cm pot.

Growth habit.—Compact, freely branching.

Form.—Upright.

Size.—Height: Approximately 29.3 cm from soil level to top of plant plane. Width (area of spread) — Approximately 27.4 cm.

Branch.—Quantity per plant: Approximately 4. Strength: Strong. Length from soil level to base of peduncle: Approximately 24.3 cm. Diameter: Approximately 4.7 mm. Internode length at middle of branch: Approximately 1.2 cm. Texture: Glabrous, becomes woody with age. Color: N144D with overlay of 187C.

Foliage.—Quantity per branch: Approximately 28. Type: Simple. Fragrance: Faint, pungent. Arrangement: Alternate. Aspect: At an acute angle to the stem. Shape: Elliptic. Apex: Acute. Base: Decurrent. Margin: Widely dentate. Venation pattern: Pinnate. Length: Approximately 5.8 cm. Width: Approximately 2.6 cm. Texture of upper and lower surfaces: Glabrous with moderate pubescence along margin. Color of upper surface of mature foliage: Closest to 137A with venation of 145B. Color of lower surface of mature foliage: Closest to 147A with venation of 145B.

Flowering description:

Time to first flower.—Approximately 13 weeks from planting of rooted cutting.

Flowering habit.—Freely flowering under outdoor growing conditions with substantially continuous blooming from spring through autumn and year round in greenhouse environment.

Inflorescence arrangement.—Solitary, terminal.

Lastingness of inflorescence.—Approximately 6–10 days.

Inflorescence description:

Appearance/type.—Composite, persistent. Shape: Round. Aspect: Facing upward or outward. Disc and ray florets develop acropetally on a capitulum. Fragrance: None.

Quantity of inflorescences and buds per plant.—

Approximately 1 inflorescence and 2 buds.

Size.—Diameter: Approximately 6.9 cm. Depth: Approximately 2.4 cm.

Bud.—Rate of opening: Generally takes 3–6 days for buds to progress from first color to fully open inflorescences. Shape: Elliptic. Diameter: Approximately 1 cm. Depth: Approximately 2.2 cm.

Ray florets.—Quantity per inflorescence: Approximately 20, arranged in two whorls. Arrangement: Overlapping. Aspect: Flat to slightly concave. Shape: Ligulate. Apex: Emarginate with three tips. Base: Attenuate. Margin: Entire. Length: Approximately 3.7 cm. Width: Approximately 9 mm. Texture: Glabrous. Color: Upper surface: 74B at tip, 74C in center and 83D at margin and near base when first open and 74B at tip and 75C in center when fully open. Lower surface: 85A with ribs of 86B when first open and when fully open.

Disc.—Diameter: Approximately 1.1 cm. Depth: Approximately 5 mm.

Receptacle.—Shape: Cone. Diameter: 2.5 mm. Depth: 6 mm. Color: 145D.

Disc florets.—Quantity per inflorescence: Approximately 105. Arrangement: Massed in center of inflorescence. Shape: Tubular with five lobes each having an acute apex. Margin: Entire. Length: Approximately 8 mm. Diameter at apex: Approximately 3 mm. Diameter at base: Approximately 1 mm. Texture: Glabrous. Color of immature florets: 99A. Color of mature floret: N78B

Phyllaries.—Quantity per inflorescence: Approximately 19. Arrangement: Imbricate. Shape: Ovate. Apex: Acuminate. Base: Truncate. Margin: Entire. Length: Approximately 1.2 cm. Width: Approximately 1.9 mm. Texture of center of inner/upper surface: Glabrous. Texture of center of outer/lower surface: Strigose. Color of center of inner/upper surface: Closest to 144C. Color of center of outer/lower surface: Closest to 144B. Texture of margin: Glabrous, papery. Color of margin: 157B, transparent.

Peduncle.—Strength: Strong. Aspect: Erect. Length: Approximately 10.8 cm. Diameter: Approximately 1.7 mm. Texture: Strigose. Color: N144D.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium: Present on disc florets only. Stamen quantity: 4. Anther shape: Linear. Anther length: Approximately 2.5 mm. Anther color: N89A. Amount of pollen: Abundant. Pollen color: 17A. Gynoecium: Present on ray and disc florets. There is one pistil per floret. Pistil length: Approximately 5 mm. Stigma shape: Cupped. Stigma length: Approximately 0.5 mm. Stigma color: N89A. Style length: approximately 4 mm. Style color: N155B. Ovary diameter: Approximately 0.5 mm. Ovary color: 145C.

Seed and fruit production: Neither seed nor fruit production has been observed.

Disease and pest resistance: Resistance to pathogens and pests common to *Osteospermums* has not been observed. What is claimed is:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Osteospermum* plant named 'Balserpink', substantially as herein shown and described.

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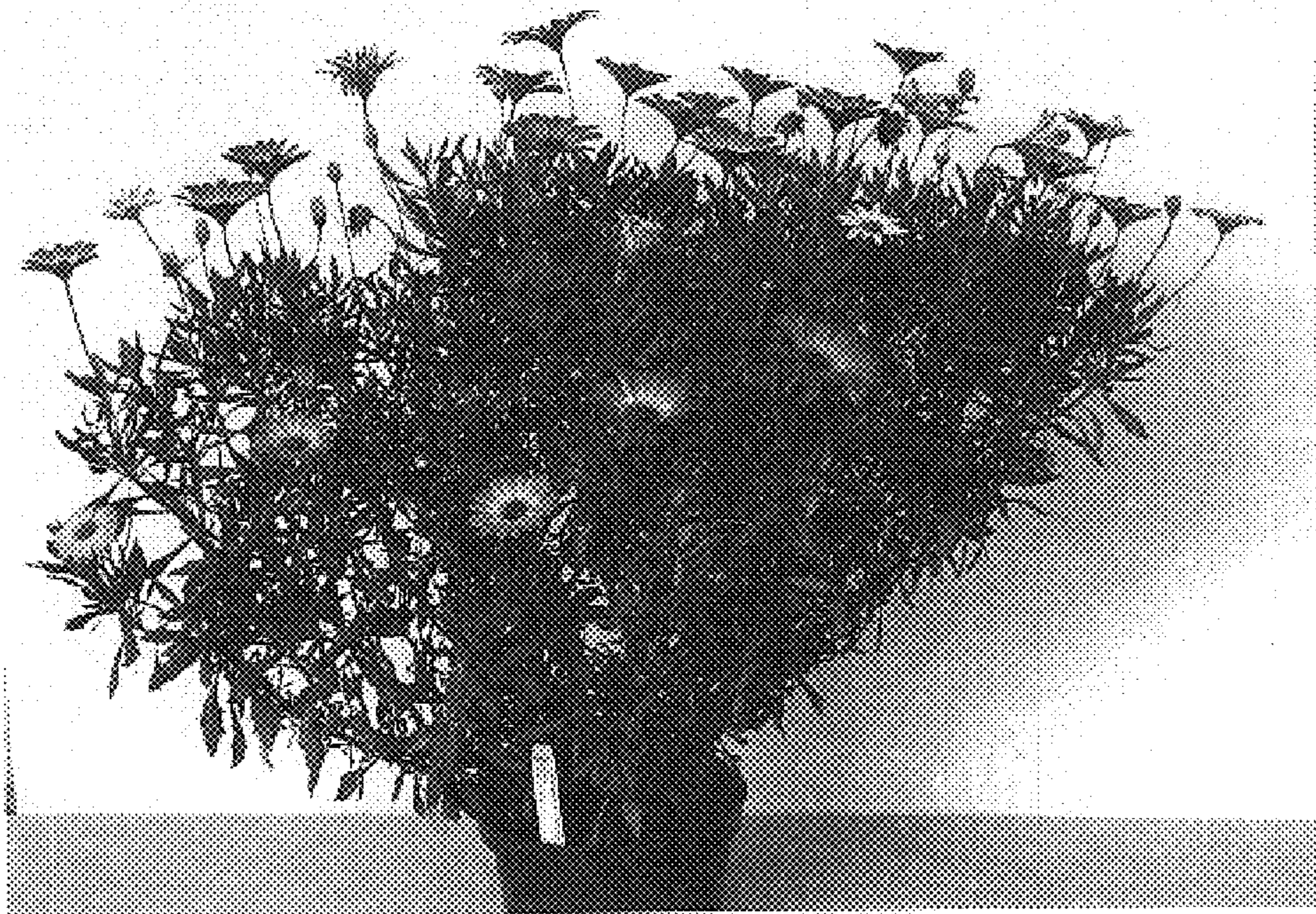


FIG. 1

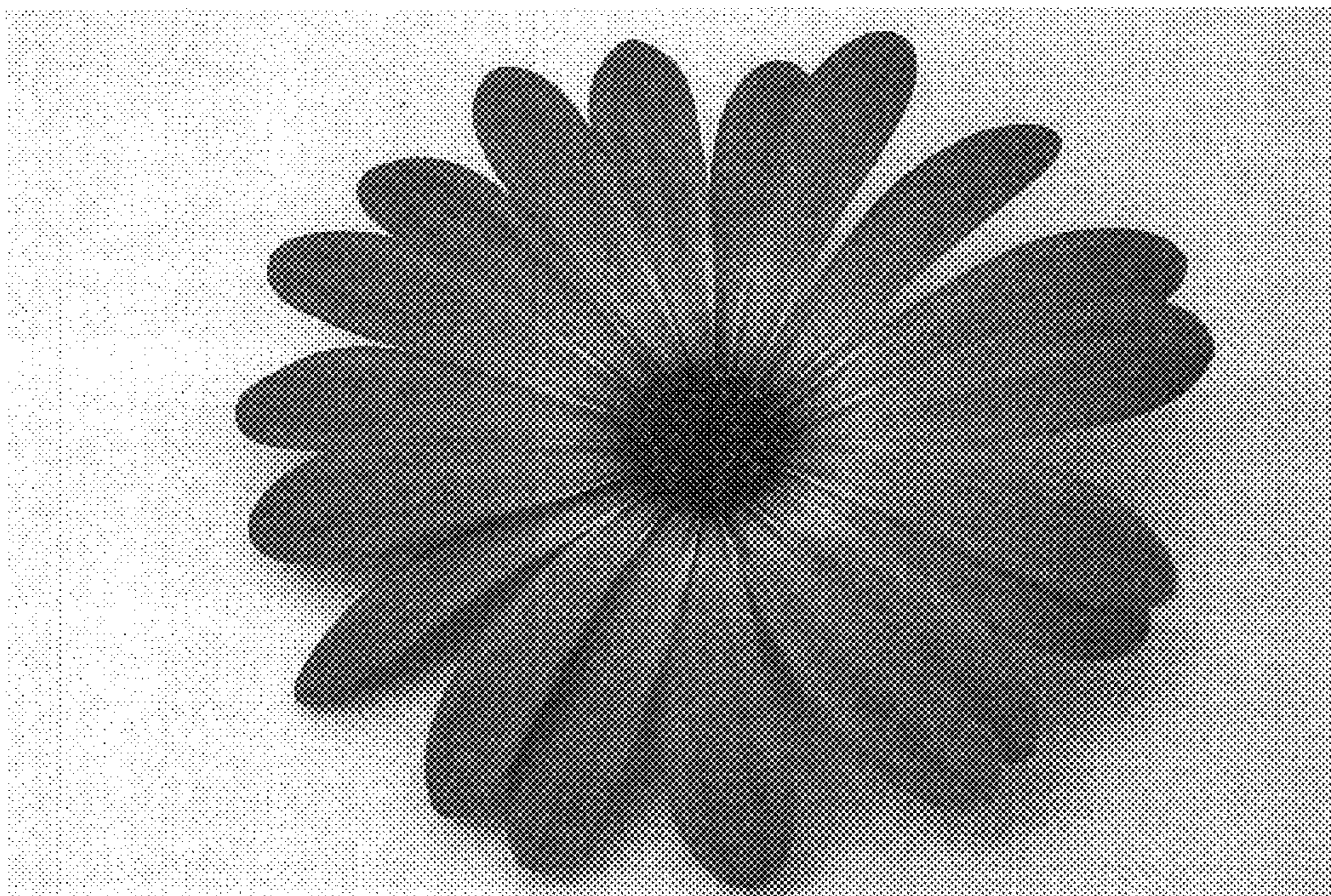


FIG. 2