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Verheijen

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(54) ***HYPERICUM* PLANT NAMED 'VERMELCLA'**

(50) Latin Name: ***Hypericum androsaemum***
Varietal Denomination: **Vermelcla**

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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Hypericum* plant named 'Vermelcla', characterized by its upright and outwardly spreading plant habit; dark green leaves; red-colored fruits; and good postproduction longevity.

2 Drawing Sheets

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Botanical designation: *Hypericum androsaemum.*
Cultivar denomination: 'Vermelcla'.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present Invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of *Hypericum* plant, botanically known as *Hypericum androsaemum*, commercially used as cut stems with fruits, and hereinafter referred to by the name 'Vermelcla'.

The new *Hypericum* is a product of a planned breeding program conducted by the Inventor in Wieringerwerf, The Netherlands. The objective of the breeding program was to develop cut *Hypericum* varieties with attractive fruit coloration.

The new cultivar originated from a cross-pollination made by the Inventor in January, 2000 of a proprietary selection of *Hypericum* identified as code number 120018, not patented, as the female, or seed, parent with a proprietary selection of *Hypericum* identified as code number 121062, not patented, as the male, or pollen, parent. The cultivar Vermelcla was discovered and selected by the Inventor during the summer of 2001 as a flowering plant within the progeny of the stated cross-pollination in a controlled environment in Wieringerwerf, The Netherlands.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Hypericum* by terminal cuttings at Wieringerwerf, The Netherlands since August, 2001, has shown that the unique features of this new *Hypericum* are stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations of asexual reproduction.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

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

1. Urpight and outwardly spreading plant habit.
2. Dark green-colored leaves.
3. Red-colored fruits.
4. Good postproduction longevity.

Plants of the new *Hypericum* differ from plants of the female parent selection in the following characteristics:

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1. Plants of the new *Hypericum* produce smaller fruits than plants of the female parent selection.
2. Plants of the new *Hypericum* have more rounded fruits than plants of the female parent selection.
3. Plants of the new *Hypericum* and the female parent selection differ in fruit coloration.

Plants of the new *Hypericum* differ from plants of the male parent selection in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Hypericum* have longer stems than plants of the male parent selection.
2. Plants of the new *Hypericum* have more fruits per lateral branch than plants of the male parent selection.
3. Plants of the new *Hypericum* and the male parent selection differ in fruit coloration as plants of the male parent selection have brownish white-colored fruits.

Plants of the new *Hypericum* can be compared to plants of the *Hypericum* cultivar Excellent Flair, not patented. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Wieringerwerf, The Netherelands, plants of the new *Hypericum* differed from plants of the cultivar Excellent Flair in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Hypericum* had smaller and darker green-colored leaves than plants of the cultivar Excellent Flair.
2. Leaves of plants of the new *Hypericum* did not scorch as a symptom of low leaf magnesium whereas leaves of plants of the cultivar Excellent Flair scorched.
3. Fruits of plants of the new *Hypericum* were more rounded in shape than fruits of plants of the cultivar Excellent Flair.
4. Fruits of plants of the new *Hypericum* were red in color whereas fruits of plants of the cultivar Excellent Flair were brownish red in color.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying colored photographs illustrate the overall appearance of the new *Hypericum*, showing the colors as true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in colored reproductions 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 *Hypericum.*

The photograph on the first sheet comprises a side perspective view of a typical flowering stem of 'Vermelcla'.

The photograph at the top of the second sheet is a close-up view of a typical flower and fruits of 'Vermelcla'.

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

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The new *Hypericum* has not been observed under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in environment such as temperature and light intensity, without, however, any variance in genotype.

The aforementioned photographs, following observations and measurements describe plants grown in Wieringerwerf, The Netherlands, in an outdoor nursery and under commercial production practices. Plants used for the photographs and the description were about two years old. The photographs and description were taken during the summer with day temperatures ranging from 14 to 30° C. and night temperatures ranging from 7 to 14° 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: *Hypericum androsaemum* cultivar Vermelcla.

Parentage:

Female parent.—Proprietary selection of *Hypericum androsaemum* identified as code number 120018, not patented.

Male parent.—Proprietary selection of *Hypericum androsaemum* identified as code number 121062, not patented.

Propagation:

Type.—Terminal cuttings.

Time to initiate roots, summer.—About two weeks at 20° C.

Time to initiate roots, winter.—About three weeks at 20° C.

Time to produce a rooted cutting, summer.—About 30 days at 20° C.

Time to produce a rooted cutting, winter.—About 40 days at 20° C.

Root description.—Fine, fibrous; grayed orange, 167A overlain with 200B, in color.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching; dense.

Plant description:

Plant form.—Upright and outwardly spreading perennial woody shrub.

Growth habit.—Moderately vigorous. Freely basal branching; dense and bushy growth habit.

Plant height.—About 75 cm.

Plant width (*spread*).—About 70 cm.

Quantity of stems per year.—About 12.

Lateral branches.—Length: About 20 cm. Diameter: About 2.5 mm. Internode length: About 4.5 cm. Strength: Moderate. Texture: Smooth; glabrous. Color, young: 145D. Color, mature: 145D overlain with 165B.

Foliage description.—Arrangement: Opposite; simple, sessile. Length: About 6 cm. Width: About 3.3 cm. Shape: Ovate. Apex: Obtuse. Base: Obtuse to somewhat cordate. Margin: Entire; slightly undulate. Texture, upper surface: Glabrous; slightly rugose. Texture, lower surface: Glabrous; rugose. Venation pattern: Pinnate. Color: Developing leaves, upper surface: 137B. Developing leaves, lower surface: 138B. Fully expanded leaves, upper surface: Darker than 139A; venation, 145C. Fully expanded leaves, lower surface: 194B; venation, 145C. Stipule length: About 4 mm. Stipule diameter: About 1.4 mm. Stipule texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color, upper surface: 143B. Color, lower surface: 144A.

Flower description:

Flower type and habit.—Bright yellow single flowers arranged in terminal compound umbels with about 13 flowers per umbel. Flowers not fragrant. Flower persistent. Flowers face mostly upright to slightly outwardly.

Natural flowering season.—Summer, typically June to September in The Netherlands.

Postproduction longevity.—Cut flower are typically harvested when all flowers have developed fruits. Postproduction longevity of cut stems with fruits is about two weeks.

Inflorescence height.—About 6 cm.

Inflorescence diameter.—About 6 cm.

Flower buds.—Height: About 6 mm. Diameter: About 5.5 mm. Shape: Ovoid. Color: 13B; longitudinal stripes, 163A.

Flowers.—Diameter: About 3.5 cm. Depth: About 1.1 cm.

Petals.—Quantity per flower: Five. Length: About 1.6 cm. Width: About 9 mm. Shape: Broadly elliptic. Apex: Retuse. Base: Attenuate. Margin: Entire. Aspect: Concave. Texture, upper surface: Smooth; glabrous. Texture, lower surface: Glabrous; rugose. Color: Developing and fully expanded petals, upper surface: 12A; color does not fade with development. Developing and fully expanded petals, lower surface: 13C.

Sepals.—Quantity per flower: Five. Length: About 9 mm. Width: About 6 mm. Shape: Broadly elliptic. Apex: Obtuse to acute. Base: Broadly attenuate. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper surface: Smooth; glabrous. Texture, lower surface: Slightly rugose; glabrous. Color: Developing sepals, upper surface: 144A; towards margin, 185A. Developing sepals, lower surface: 147D; towards the margin, 185A. Fully expanded sepals, upper surface: 139A. Fully expanded sepals, lower surface: 194B.

Peduncles.—Length: About 1.2 cm. Diameter: About 1.2 mm. Orientation: Erect to about 45° from vertical. Strength: Moderately strong. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: 144B overlain with 183A.

Pedicels.—Length: About 1.5 cm. Diameter: About 1.5 mm. Orientation: Erect to about 45° from vertical. Strength: Moderately strong. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: 145A overlain with 183A.

Reproductive organs.—Stamens: Quantity per flower: About 85. Filament color: 9A. Anther shape: Broadly ovate. Anther length: About 0.5 to 0.7 mm. Anther color: 21A to 21C. Pollen amount: Moderate. Pollen color: 12A. Pistils: Quantity per flower: Three. Pistil length: About 1.2 cm. Stigma shape: Globular. Stigma color: 186A to 186B. Style length: About 5.5 mm. Style color: 154C. Ovary color: 4C.

Fruits.—Quantity per flower: One. Days to ripening: About 25. Type: Capsule. Shape: Ellipsoidal. Length: About 1.2 cm. Diameter: About 1.1 cm. Texture: Smooth; glabrous. Color: Apex: 187A. Mid-section: 47A. Base: 155D.

Seeds.—Quantity per fruit: More than 100. Length: About 1 mm. Diameter: About 0.5 mm. Texture: Smooth; glabrous. Color: 165A.

Disease/pest resistance: Plants of the new *Hypericum* have been observed to be resistant to Rust. Plants of the new *Hypericum* have not been observed to be resistant to pests and other pathogens common to *Hypericum.*

Temperature tolerance: Plants of the new *Hypericum* have been observed to tolerate temperatures ranging from −15 to 35° C.

It is claimed:

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

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