



US00PP16477P2

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

(10) **Patent No.:** **US PP16,477 P2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Apr. 25, 2006**

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

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

(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 170 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **11/017,576**

(22) Filed: **Dec. 20, 2004**

(51) **Int. Cl.**
A01H 5/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./360**
(58) **Field of Classification Search** **Plt./360**
See application file for complete search history.

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
'Balserpurp' characterized by its single inflorescence form
with dark purple-colored ray florets, violet-blue-colored disc
florets, dark green-colored foliage, freely branching
character, and compact, upright, and mounded growth habit.

1 Drawing Sheet

1

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

Variety denomination: 'Balserpurp'.

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 'Balserpurp'.

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 originated from the open-pollination of
'Springstar Aurora', not patented, characterized by its dark
purple-colored ray florets and medium green-colored foliage.
Seed from the above stated open-pollination was ger-
minated and grown to maturity. A single flowering plant
within the progeny was discovered and selected by the
inventor during December 2002 in a controlled environment
at Arroyo Grande, Calif.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by terminal stem
cuttings taken since December 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
'Balserpurp' as a new and distinct cultivar of *Osteospermum*
plant:

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

2

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

Plants of the new cultivar are most similar to the cultivar
Sunny Ingrid, U.S. Plant Pat. No. 10,996. However, in
side-by-side comparisons, plants of the new cultivar differed
from plants of 'Sunny Ingrid' in the following characteris-
tics:

1. Plants of the new cultivar are taller and less spreading
than plants of 'Sunny Ingrid'.
2. Plants of the new cultivar have larger inflorescences
than plants of 'Sunny Ingrid'.

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 'Balserpurp'. The plants
were grown in a 5 gallon pot for 16 weeks in the field at West
Chicago, Ill.

FIG. 1 illustrates a view from above of the overall growth
and flowering habit of 'Balserpurp' with three plants per pot.

FIG. 2 illustrates a close-up view of an individual flower
of 'Balserpurp'.

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 varia-
tions 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 Horticultural
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 at West Chicago, Ill. in a double polycarbonate covered greenhouse under conditions comparable to those used in commercial practice. The plants were grown in 10 cm pots for 14 weeks while utilizing a soilless growth medium. Greenhouse temperatures were maintained at approximately 65°–78° F. (18°–25° C.) during the day and approximately 50°–60° F. (10°–15° C.) during the night. Greenhouse light levels were maintained at 6,000 to 9,000 footcandles during the day.

Botanical classification: *Osteospermum ecklonis* cultivar Balserpurp.

Parentage: Open-pollination of 'Springstar Aurora', not patented.

Propagation:

Type cutting.—Terminal stem.

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

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

Root description.—Fine, fibrous.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching.

Plant description:

Crop time.—Approximately 10–13 weeks from rooted cutting.

Habit of growth.—Compact. Freely branching. One or two pinches improves basal branching.

Form.—Upright, mounded.

Size.—Height — Approximately 42.9 cm from soil level to top of plant plane. Width to outer inflorescences (area of spread): Approximately 26.3 cm.

Branch.—Quantity per plant: Approximately 3 main branches. Strength: Strong. Aspect: Erect. Length from soil level to base of peduncle: Approximately 24.5 cm. Diameter at base: Approximately 4.8 mm. Texture: Glabrous. Color: 144B. Internode length at middle of branch: Approximately 5.5 mm.

Foliage.—Quantity per branch: Approximately 48. Type: Simple. Fragrance: Faint. Arrangement: Alternate. Aspect: At an acute angle to the stem. Shape: Elliptic, pinnatifid. Apex: Acute. Base: Sessile, attenuate. Margin: Widely dentate. Venation pattern: Pinnate. Length: Approximately 6.8 cm. Width: Approximately 2.6 cm. Texture: Upper and lower surface: Papillate. Color of upper surface of mature foliage: Darker than 146A with venation of 145B. Color of lower surface of mature foliage: 146B with venation of 145B.

Flowering description:

Time to first flower.—Approximately 10–13 weeks from planting of rooted cutting.

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

Inflorescence arrangement.—Solitary, terminal.

Lastingness of inflorescence.—Approximately 4–6 days.

Inflorescence description:

Appearance.—Type: Composite, persistent. Shape: Round. Aspect: Slightly cupped, facing upward or outward. Disc and ray florets develop acropetally on a capitulum. Fragrance: None.

Quantity of inflorescences and buds per lateral branch.—Approximately 4 inflorescences and 6 buds.

Size.—Diameter: Approximately 6.8 cm. Depth: Approximately 1.3 cm.

Bud.—Rate of opening: Generally takes from 3–6 days for buds to progress from first color to fully open inflorescences. Shape: Elliptic. Depth: Approximately 1.7 cm. Diameter: Approximately 9.3 mm. Color: 144B.

Ray florets.—Quantity per inflorescence: Approximately 18, arranged in a single whorl. Arrangement: Overlapping. Aspect: Flat to slightly concave. Shape: Linear. Apex: Emarginate with three tips. Base: Attenuate and fused to form tube. Margin: Entire. Length: Approximately 4 cm. Width at widest point: Approximately 9.6 mm. Texture: Glabrous and ribbed. Color of upper surface of fully open ray floret: N80A with ribs of 79B. Color of lower surface of fully open floret: 197B.

Disc.—Diameter: Approximately 1.2 cm. Depth: Approximately 1.2 cm.

Receptacle.—Diameter: 3 mm. Depth: 2 mm. Color: 154D.

Disc florets.—Quantity per inflorescence: Approximately 95. 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: N92B. Color of mature florets: 96B.

Phyllaries.—Quantity per inflorescence: Approximately 18. Arrangement: Imbricate, arranged in several rows. Shape: Ovate. Apex: Acuminate. Base: Truncate. Margin: Entire. Length: Approximately 1.2 cm. Width: Approximately 1.9 mm. Texture of center of outer/lower surface: Rough. Texture of center of inner/upper surface: Glabrous. Color of center of outer/lower surface: Closest to 144B. Color of center of inner/upper surface: Closest to 144C. Texture of margins: Papery. Color of margins: 157B, transparent.

Peduncle.—Strength: Strong. Aspect: At an acute angle to the stem. Length: Approximately 12.4 cm. Diameter: Approximately 1.6 mm. Texture: Rough. Color: 144A.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium: Present on disc florets only. Stamen quantity: 5. Anther shape: Linear. Anther length: 2 mm. Anther color: 93A. Amount of pollen: Abundant Pollen color: 14A. Gynoecium: Present on ray and disc florets. There is one pistil per floret. Pistil length: 7 mm. Stigma shape: Two parted. Stigma length: 1.3 mm. Stigma color: N92B. Style length: 4 mm. Style color: Lighter than 84D. Ovary size: 2 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 *Osteospermum* has not been observed. What is claimed is:

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

* * * * *

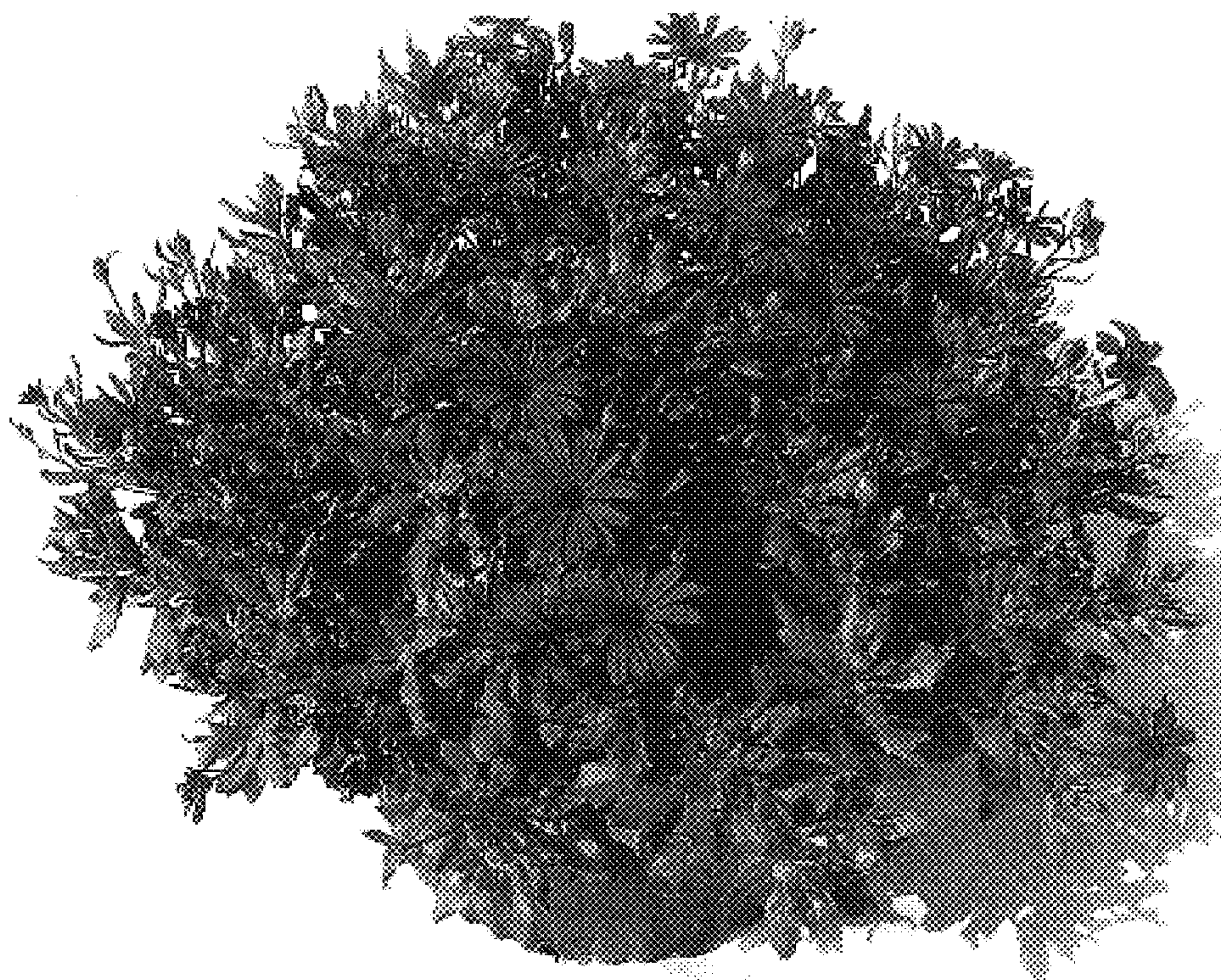


FIG. 1

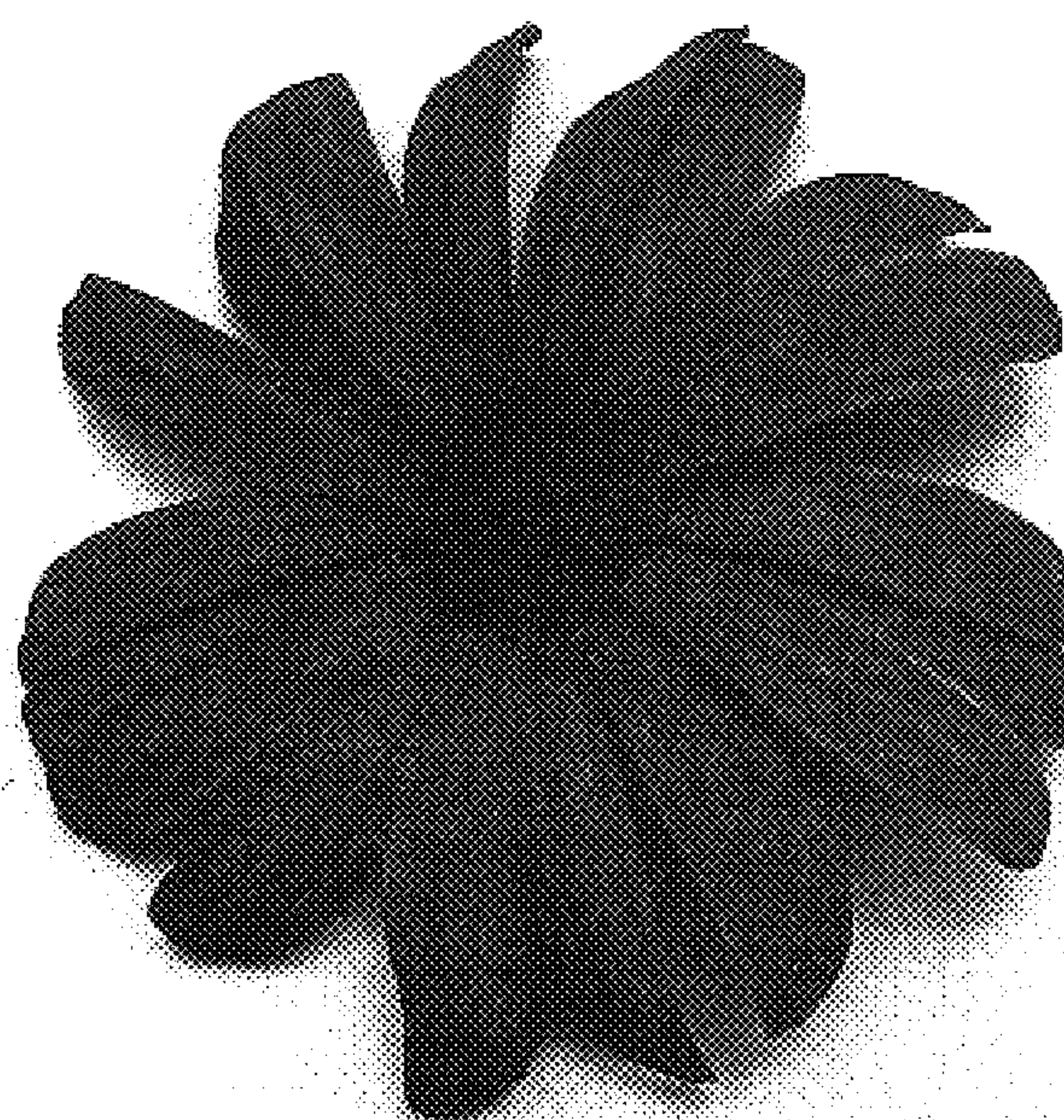


FIG. 2