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Anderson, III et al.

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(54) **PISTACHIO ROOTSTOCK TREE NAMED**
'P.N. 20-18'

(50) Latin Name: ***Pistacia* sp.**
Varietal Denomination: **P.N. 20-18**

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(58) **Field of Classification Search** **Plt./152**
See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct variety of *pistachio* tree, characterized by
the rounded and upright growth of the plant and the glabrous
and leathery characteristic of the foliage, which is particu-
larly useful as a rootstock upon which commercial nut
bearing *pistachio* varieties may be budded or grafted.

4 Drawing Sheets

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Latin name of genus and species: The present invention
relates to a new *Pistacia* sp. tree, designated 'P.N. 20-18'.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct variety
of *pistachio* tree. The new variety was discovered in an
open-pollinated seed plot in Delano, Calif. Seeds were
collected from the seed plot in 1988 and planted in 1989 for
testing. Yield data was collected from 1998 to 2000.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The 'P.N. 20-18' variety is characterized by the rounded
and upright growth of the plant, the glabrous and leathery
characteristic of the foliage, and its particular usefulness as
a rootstock upon which commercial nut bearing *pistachio*
varieties may be budded or grafted. Testing of the new
variety as a rootstock revealed that stock grafted onto the
new variety produce more fruit than stock grafted onto *P.*
integerrima. The parents of the 'P.N. 20-18' variety are
unknown.

'P.N. 20-18' was used as a rootstock for Kerman *pista-*
chios and shown to produce a superior yield of fruit. Cuts
were made to this 'P.N. 20-18' rootstock to generate suckers,
which were budded onto *P. integerrima* to produce bud
wood. Tissue culture was used to propagate more rootstock.
Asexual reproduction by budding onto *P. integerrima* at
Kern County, Calif. and by tissue culture show that the
foregoing and other distinguishing characteristics come true
to form and are established and transmitted through suc-
ceeding propagation. Other known forms of asexual repro-
duction for *pistachios* may also be employed.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ILLUSTRATIONS

The accompanying photographic illustrations show typi-
cal specimens of vegetative growth of the new variety, in
color as nearly true as it is reasonably possible to make in a
color illustration of this character.

FIG. 1 shows a three year old *pistachio* tree of the new
variety.

FIG. 2 shows a close-up of the compound leaves, typi-
cally with thirteen leaflets.

FIG. 3 shows a close-up of the new variety with both
medium red to reddish green new leaflets and dark green
older leaflets.

FIG. 4 shows a close-up of the trunk of the new variety.

DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW VARIETY

Referring now specifically to the new and distinct variety
of *pistachio* tree, the following is a detailed description of
one year old trees (grafted onto three year old *P. integerrima*
rootstock) with color description where indicated by refer-
ence to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart,
except where common terms of color definition are
employed.

The new variety of *pistachio* tree as herein described may
vary in slight detail due to climatic, soil and cultural
conditions under which the variety may be grown, the
present description being of the variety as grown at
McFarland, Kern County, Calif.

Plant:

Growth.—Rounded and upright, as indicated in FIG. 1.

Foliage:

Leaves.—Compound of thirteen leaflets (sometimes less), as indicated in FIG. 2. Length and Width — Approximately 8 inches long and 5 inches wide at the widest point.

Leaflets.—Small, with young tissue glossy and lighter green than older tissue, which is dull and darker green. Shape — Medium length and lanceolate, apex acute, base cuneate. Color — New leaflets are medium red to a reddish green, near Greyed-red Group 178B (top surface) and 178B-C (bottom surface), as shown in FIG. 3. Older leaflets are dark green, near Yellow-green Group 147A (top surface) and 147 B (bottom surface), also as shown in FIG. 3. Arrangement — Pinnately compound of thirteen, sometimes less, nearly opposite, lanceolate and sessile. Margin, Venation pattern and color, length (without petiole), width, and texture — Entire with a pinnate and alternate venation pattern; veins are light green, near 147C (mature foliage) or 194C (young foliage). Apex of leaflets is acute. Base of leaf cuneate. The length of the leaflet averages 2.43 inches and 0.82 inches wide at widest spot. The leaflet has a leathery characteristic on top with a smoother surface on bottom. Leaf surface is glabrous. Leaflet Ribs — Ribs of leaflets are green (near

147C in mature leaflets and near 194C in young leaflets).

Rachis length and color.—Rachis length is about 4.41 inches; rachis color is greyed-green, near 195C, with a reddish color, near 181C, at the base. Rachis color on young leaves is greyed-red, near 181A-181C.

Petiole length, diameter, and color.—Petiole length is about 1.43 inches, with a diameter of about 0.102 inches; petiole color is greyed-purple, near 182B.

Growth:

Height.—About 8 feet.

Spread.—About 4 feet.

Trunk.—Trunk is rounded.

Trunk color.—The trunk is light brown in color, near Greyed-orange Group 165A, on older growth and red, near Greyed-red Group 178B, in newer growth, as shown in FIG. 4.

Trunk diameter.—About 1.58 inches at 12 inches above soil surface.

Bark texture.—Rough.

Vegetative buds.—Vegetative buds are small and reddish on new growth and green and larger on older growth.

We claim:

1. A new and distinct variety of *pistachio* tree, identified as 'P.N. 20-18', substantially as shown and described.

* * * * *



FIG. 1



FIG. 2



FIG. 3



FIG. 4