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van Straalen et al.

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(54) ***ASTER* PLANT NAMED 'CEFORTUNA'**

(50) Latin Name: ***Aster novi-belgii L.***
Varietal Denomination: **Cefortuna**

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 89 days.

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(65) **Prior Publication Data**

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

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./355**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** Plt./355
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

PUBLICATIONS

UPOV–ROM GTITM, Plant Variety Database, 2005/01, GTI Jouve Retrieval Software, Citation for Aster 'Cefortuna'.*

Chrysanthemum Breeders Association N.V. [online], [retrieved on Jun. 1, 2005]. Retrieved from the Internet <http://www.cbanv.nl/index.cfm>, 3 pages only.*

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

An *Aster* plant named 'Cefortuna' characterized by its medium sized blooms with purple ray-florets and yellow disc florets, which can be propagated by means of cuttings from cuttings and produced with a short period.

3 Drawing Sheets

RELATED CULTIVARS

'Cefortuna' is developed from a breeding program for pot *asters* that has so far yielded the commercial varieties 'Dynaster' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 15,262), 'Diamaster' (U.S. Plant Patent Application Ser. No. 10/426,847) and Dukaster (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 15,100).

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

'Cefortuna' is a product of a breeding-program that had the objective of creating new *Aster* cultivars, that can be grown as pot plants and propagated by means of cuttings from cuttings, similar to the cultivation and propagation of all year round *chrysanthemum*. The new plant of the present invention comprises a new and distinct cultivar of an *Aster* plant. 'Cefortuna' is a seedling from a cross of a breeding program maintained at *Chrysanthemum* Breeders Association Research BV, Rijsenhout, Holland. The female parent is 97.6128, a non-commercialized *aster* variety; the male parent is unknown, being a mixed population of a group of male parents. A comparison with parent *aster* 97.6128 is also given in this application. The new and distinct cultivar was discovered and selected as a flowering plant within the progeny of the stated cross by Harry W. M. van Straalen in a controlled environment (greenhouse) in Rijsenhout, Holland in 2000. The first act of asexual reproduction of 'Cefortuna' was accomplished when vegetative cuttings were propagated from the initial selection in 2000 in a controlled environment in Rigsenhout, Holland.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention 'Cefortuna' is a new and distinct variety of *Aster* bearing medium sized blooms with purple ray-florets and yellow disc florets, which can be propagated by a cutting from a cutting and produced as pot plants in 8 weeks time.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The present invention 'Cefortuna' of a new and distinct variety of *Aster* is shown in the accompanying drawings, the color being as nearly true as possible with color photographs of this type.

FIG. **1** shows a plant of the cultivar in full bloom.

FIG. **2** shows the various stages of bloom of the new cultivar.

FIG. **3** shows the foliage of the new cultivar.

DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

This new variety of *Aster* is of the botanical classification *Aster novi-belgii* L. The observations and measurements were gathered from plants grown in a greenhouse in Rijsenhout Holland in a photo-periodic controlled crop under conditions generally used in commercial practice. The greenhouse temperatures during this crop were at day-time between 18° C. and 25° C. and at night 20° C. The photo-periodic response time in this crop was 39 days, after an average of 16 long days after sticking of the unrooted cuttings. Plants are pinched 10 days after sticking. Growth retardants were applied in an average dose of 1.5 gram/liter water, starting one week after pinching. The plants were

observed (directly) during the flowering of this crop. The plant is susceptible to Powdery Mildew. No tests were done on cold or drought tolerance. This new variety produces medium sized blooms with purple ray-florets andyellow disc-florets blooming on the plant for 4 weeks. This new variety of *Aster* has been found to retain its distinctive characteristics throughout successive propagations, however the phenotype may vary significantly with variations in environment such as light intensity and temperature. 'Cefortuna' can be planted with assimilation lightning (high pressure sodium lamps) between week 5 and week 35 under greenhouse conditions in Holland.

From the cultivars known to inventor the most similar existing cultivar in comparison to 'Cefortuna' are its female parent 97.6128 and the varieties 'Dukaster' and 'Dynaster'. When these varieties are being compared with 'Cefortuna' the following differences are noticed: The differences between 'Cefortuna', 97.6128, 'Dukaster' and 'Dynaster' are (1) Flower color. (2) Growth habit. (3) Leaf width. (1) The color of the ray-florets of 'Cefortuna' is purple, while it is pink in 'Dukaster' and violet in 97.6128 and 'Dynaster'. (2) The growth habit is upright and partially spreading in 'Cefortuna', while this is upright in 97.6128, 'Dukaster' and 'Dynaster' (3) The leaves of 'Cefortuna' and 'Dynaster' are of intermediate width, while those of 97.6128 are smaller, and those of 'Dukaster' are broader.

The following is a description of the plant and characteristics that distinguish 'Cefortuna' as a new and distinct variety. The color designations are taken from the plant itself. Accordingly, any discrepancies between the color designations and the colors depicted in the photographs are due to photographic tolerances. The color chart used in this description is: The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, edition 1995.

TABLE 1

Botanical Description of cultivar 'Cefortuna'

Bud	
Size	Medium, Cross-section 0.3 cm, height 0.5 cm
Outside color	Purple-violet 81C
Involucral bracts	2 rows, length 4 mm, width 3 mm
Involucral bracts among disc-florets	Not present
Involucral bracts color	Green 138 D
Bloom	
Type	Daisy
Size	Medium
Fully expanded	2.5–3 cm
Number of blooms per branch	10–12
Peduncle strength	Strong
Peduncle structure	Hairy with ribs
Peduncle length	3 cm
Peduncle color	Green 139 B
Peduncle angle	45*
Performance on the plant	4 weeks
Seeds	Produced in small quantities, oval/ovate shaped, grey-brown 199 A, 1 mm. in length
Color	
Center of the bloom (disc-florets)	Immature Yellow-green 150C Mature Yellow 1A

TABLE 1-continued

Botanical Description of cultivar 'Cefortuna'

Color of the ray-florets	Upper surface: Red-purple 72B Lower surface: Purple-violet 81C
Tonality from Distance	A pot *aster* with purple flowers and a yellow disc
Color of the upper surface of the ray-florets after aging of the plant	Red-purple 72C
Ray florets	
Number of whorls of ray-florets	2
Texture	Upper and under side smooth
Number of ray-florets	20–30
Shape in cross-section	Straight
Curvature of longitudinal axis	Flat
Length of corolla tube	0.3 cm
Ray-floret length	1.5 cm
Ray-floret width	0.2 cm
Shape of tip	Pointed
Shape of apex	Acute
Disc florets	
Disc diameter	0.7 cm; 1 cm when styles of outer disc florets are included
Distribution of disc florets	Numerous, clearly visible at all stages of flowering
Shape	Tubular
Length	0.6 cm
Color	Yellow-green 145 D
Reproductive Organs	
Stamen	Present in Disc florets only (1 per floret)
Stamen color	Yellow 13 A
Pollen color	Yellow-orange 14 A
Pistil	Present on both Ray- and Disc-florets (1 per floret)
Style color	Yellow-green 150 D
Style length	0.6 cm
Ovaries	Enclosed in calyx
Calyx shape	Pappus
Calyx length	0.4 cm
Calyx color	Yellow-green 150 D
Plant	
Form	A pot *aster* meant for indoor use
Growth habit	Upright and partially spreading
Growth rate	Vigorous
Height	22 cm
Width	17 cm
Internode length	1.5–2 cm
Stem diameter	2–3 mm
Stem color	Green 139 B
Stem strength	Strong
Stem brittleness	Not brittle
Stem anthocyanin coloration	Absent
Length of lateral branch	From top to bottom 18 cm
Lateral branch color	Green 139 B
Lateral branch, attachment	30–40*
Branching (average number of lateral branches)	Medium with 3 breaks after pinching
Internode length	1 cm
Flowering Response (photo-periodic controlled crop, not natural season)	39 Days
Foliage	
Leaf arrangement	Alternate
Color immature stage	Upper side Yellow-green 144 C Under side Yellow-green 146 D
Color mature stage	Upper side Green 137 B Under side Green 139 C
Color Midvein	Upper side Yellow-green 147 D Under side Yellow-green 147 C
Size	Medium; length 5–7 cm, width 1–1.5 cm

TABLE 1-continued

Botanical Description of cultivar 'Cefortuna'	
Quantity (number per lateral branch)	12
Shape	Elliptic
Texture upper side	Glabrous
Texture under side	Glabrous
Venation arrangement	Pinnately netted
Shape of the margin	Sinuate
Shape of Base	Attenuate
Apex	Acuminate

TABLE 2

	Differences with the comparison varieties			
	'Cefortuna'	97.6128	'Dukaster'	'Dynaster'
Color upper side ray-florets	Red-purple 72B	Violet-blue 92A	Purple-violet 81A	Violet-blue 90A
Growth habit	Upright and spreading	Upright growing	Upright growing	Upright growing
Leaf width	1–1.5 cm	0.6–1.2 cm	2 cm	1.5 cm

I claim:

1. A new and distinct variety of *Aster* plant as described and illustrated.

* * * * *

FIG. 1

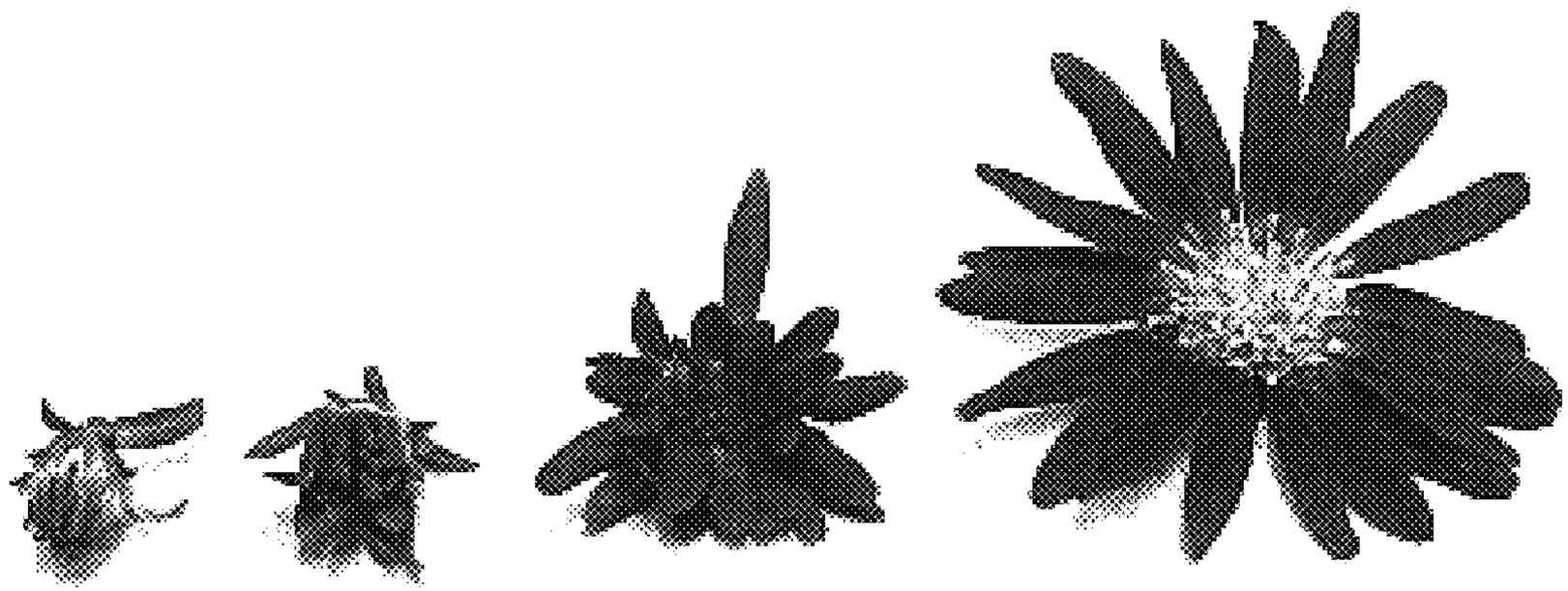

FIG. 2

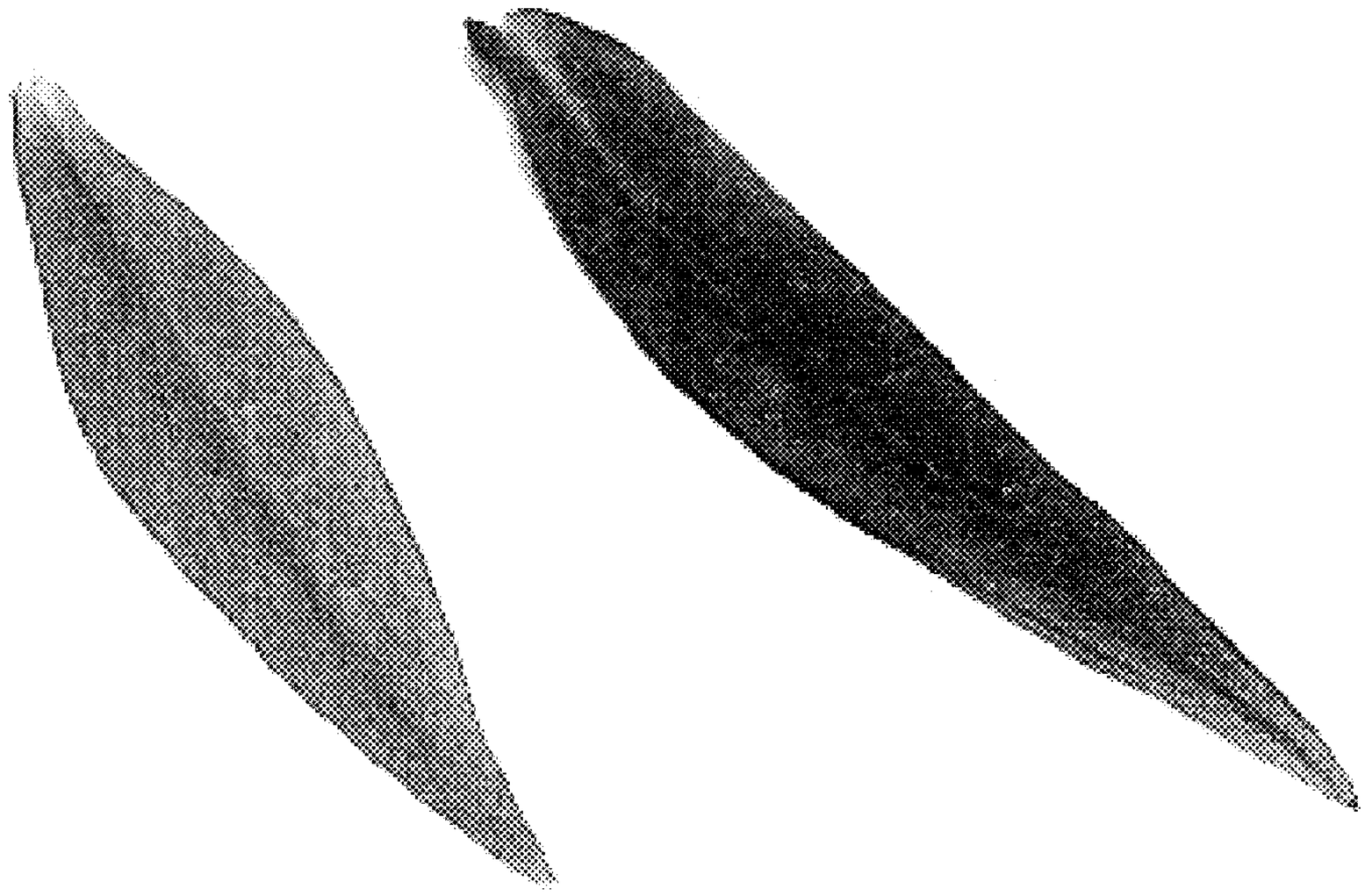

FIG. 3