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Murakami

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(54) **CALIBRACHOA PLANT NAMED**
‘SUNBELKUROPI’

(50) Latin Name: ***Calibrachoa* sp.**
Varietal Denomination: **Sunbelkuropi**

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this
patent is extended or adjusted under 35
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(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./263**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** **Plt./263,**
Plt./356

See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Calibrachoa* plant named
‘Sunbelkuropi’, characterized by its decumbent and low
mounding plant habit; vigorous growth habit; freely branch-
ing habit; freely flowering habit; red purple-colored flowers
with darker red purple-colored flower throats; and good
weather tolerance.

1 Drawing Sheet

1

Botanical designation: *Calibrachoa* sp.
Cultivar denomination: ‘Sunbelkuropi’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present Invention relates to a new and distinct culti-
var of *Calibrachoa* plant, botanically known as *Calibrachoa*
sp., and hereinafter referred to by the cultivar name ‘Sun-
belkuropi’.

The new *Calibrachoa* is a product of a planned breeding
program conducted by the Inventor in Higashiomi, Shiga,
Japan. The objective of the program is to create new
Calibrachoa cultivars with uniform plant habit and attrac-
tive flower colors.

The new *Calibrachoa* originated from a cross-pollination
made by the Inventor in 1995 of proprietary seedling selec-
tion of *Calibrachoa* identified as code number WP49, not
patented, as the female, or seed, parent with a proprietary
seedling selection of *Calibrachoa* identified as code number
E1, not patented, as the male, or pollen, parent. The new
Calibrachoa was discovered and selected by the Inventor in
a controlled environment in Higashiomi, Shiga, Japan.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by terminal
cuttings in a controlled environment in Higashiomi, Shiga,
Japan since October, 1999, has shown that the unique
features of this new *Calibrachoa* are stable and reproduced
true to type in successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Plants of the cultivar Sunbelkuropi have not been
observed under all possible environmental conditions. The
phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in environ-
ment such as temperature, light intensity and daylength
without, however, any variance in genotype.

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and
are determined to be the unique characteristics of ‘Sun-
belkuropi’. These characteristics in combination distinguish
‘Sunbelkuropi’ as a new and distinct cultivar of *Calibra-
choa*:

2

1. Decumbent and low mounding plant habit.
2. Vigorous growth habit.
3. Freely branching habit.
4. Freely flowering habit.
5. Red purple-colored flowers with darker red purple-
colored flower throats.
6. Good weather tolerance; tolerant to rain and low and
high temperatures.

Plants of the new *Calibrachoa* differ from plants of the
female parent selection primarily in petal coloration as
plants of the female parent selection have light purple
violet-colored petals. Compared to plants of the male parent
selection, plants of the new *Calibrachoa* are more
decumbent, shorter, more freely branching, more freely
flowering and differ in petal coloration as plants of the male
parent selection have red-colored flowers.

Plants of the new *Calibrachoa* can be compared to plants
of the cultivar Sunbelkupi, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No.
10,287. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in
Higashiomi, Shiga, Japan, plants of the new *Calibrachoa*
were more compact and had shorter internodes and leaves
than plants of the cultivar Sunbelkupi. In addition, plants of
the new *Calibrachoa* and the cultivar Sunbelkupi differed
slightly in petal shape and coloration.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying colored photographs illustrate the
overall appearance of the new cultivar, showing the colors as
true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in colored repro-
ductions 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
Calibrachoa.

The photograph at the top of the sheet comprises a side
perspective view of a typical flowering plant of ‘Sun-
belkuropi’ grown in a container.

The photograph at the bottom of the sheet is a close-up
view of a typical flower and leaves of ‘Sunbelkuropi’.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

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. Plants grown in 18-cm containers for about six months were used for the aforementioned photographs and following description. Plants were grown under conditions which closely approximate commercial production conditions during the summer and early fall in Higashiomi, Shiga, Japan in an outdoor nursery. During the production period, day temperatures were about 22° C. and night temperatures were about 12° C. Plants were pinched one time.

Botanical classification: *Calibrachoa* sp. cultivar Sunbelkuropi.

Parentage:

Female, or seed, parent.—Proprietary seedling selection of *Calibrachoa* sp. identified as code number WP49, not patented.

Male, or pollen, parent.—Proprietary seedling selection of *Calibrachoa* sp. identified as code number E1, not patented.

Propagation:

Type cutting.—Terminal vegetative cuttings.

Time to initiate roots.—About one week at 20 to 25° C.

Time to produce a your rooted plant.—About three weeks at 20 to 25° C.

Root description.—Fine, fibrous; light brown in color.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching.

Plant description:

Plant form and growth habit.—Annual flowering plant; initially upright to semi-upright to decumbent; uniformly low mounded appearance. Vigorous growth habit.

Plant height (from soil level to top of plant plane).—About 6.4 cm.

Plant diameter.—About 55.6 cm.

Branching habit.—Freely branching, lateral branches potentially developing at every node; pinching enhances lateral branch development.

Lateral branch description.—Length: About 20 cm. Diameter: About 1.7 mm. Internode length: About 9 mm. Texture: Sparsely pubescent. Color: 144B.

Foliage description.—Arrangement: Alternate; simple; sessile. Length: About 2 cm. Width: About 9 mm. Shape: Lanceolate. Apex: Obtuse. Base: Cuneate. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Pubescent. Venation pattern: Pinnate; arcuate. Color: Developing foliage, upper surface: 146A. Developing foliage, lower surface: 137D. Fully expanded foliage, upper surface: 146B; venation, similar to lamina. Fully expanded foliage, lower surface: 137D; venation, similar to lamina.

Flower description:

Flower type and habit.—Flowers face upright or outward; single, axillary; salverform. Flowers not persistent. Freely flowering habit, numerous flowers per plant. Flowers faintly fragrant.

Natural flowering season.—Spring to late autumn in Japan; flowering continuous during this period.

Time to flower.—Plants begin flowering about five weeks after planting.

Flower longevity on the plant.—About seven to ten days.

Flower size.—Diameter: About 2.8 cm. Depth: About 2.7 cm.

Flower buds.—Length: About 2 cm. Diameter: About 5 mm. Shape: Elongated oblong. Color: N74C.

Corolla.—Arrangement/appearance: Single whorl of five petals, fused into flared trumpet. Petal length from throat: About 1.3 cm. Petal width: About 1.4 cm. Petal shape: Roughly fan-shaped. Petal apex: Rounded. Petal margin: Entire. Petal texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous; satiny. Throat texture: Smooth. Tube texture: Pubescent. Color: Petal, when opening and fully opened, upper surface: N74B; towards the base and venation, 60A. Petal, when opening and fully opened, lower surface: N74C. Flower throat (inside): 14A; venation, N77B. Flower tube (outside): 7D; venation, N77A.

Sepals.—Arrangement/appearance: Single whorl of five sepals, fused at base; star-shaped. Length: About 1 cm. Width: About 3 mm. Shape: Lanceolate. Apex: Acute. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Pubescent. Color, upper and lower surfaces: 144B.

Peduncles.—Length: About 1 cm. Width: About 0.7 mm. Strength: Moderately strong. Angle: Erect to about 45° from vertical. Texture: Pubescent. Color: 144B.

Reproductive organs.—Stamens: Quantity: Five per flower. Anther shape: Ellipsoidal. Anther length: Less than 1 mm. Anther color: Close to 5B. Pollen amount: Moderate. Pollen color: 15D. Pistils: Quantity: One per flower. Pistil length: About 1 cm. Stigma shape: Elliptic. Stigma color: 143B. Style length: About 9 mm. Style color: N145B. Ovary color: N144D.

Seeds.—Diameter: About 0.5 mm. Color: N186C.

Disease/pest resistance: Plants of the new *Calibrachoa* have not been noted to be resistant to pathogens and pests common to *Calibrachoa*s.

Weather/temperature tolerance: Plants of the new *Calibrachoa* are tolerant to rain and wind and have been observed to tolerate temperatures from 5 to 35° C.

It is claimed:

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

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