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McGranahan et al.

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(54) WALNUT TREE NAMED 'GILLET'

(50) Latin Name: *Juglans regia* Varietal Denomination: **Gillet**

(75) Inventors: Gale McGranahan, Davis, CA (US);

Charles Leslie, Davis, CA (US)

(73) Assignee: The Regents of the University of

California, Oakland, CA (US)

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Primary Examiner—Anne Marie Grunberg Assistant Examiner—June Hwu

(74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm-Morrison & Foerster LLP

(57) ABSTRACT

A new and distinct variety of walnut tree denominated 'Gillet' is described. This new cultivar comes into bearing young, produces well mid-season, and bears a jumbo sized nut with light colored kernels of uniform size. The new cultivar can be harvested prior to 'Chandler' and furthermore shows low susceptibility to walnut blight.

7 Drawing Sheets

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FIELD OF THE INVENTION

Botanical/commercial classification: (*Juglans regia*)/new English walnut variety. Varietal denomination: cv. Gillet.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct variety of walnut tree *Juglans regia* which has been denominated varietally as 'Gillet,' and more particularly to such a walnut tree which has a harvest date approximately two weeks 10 earlier than the walnut tree variety 'Chandler' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 4,388) and which further produces a walnut that is jumbo in size with light colored kernels and which can be processed in shell or cracked.

It has long been recognized as desirable to provide walnut trees bearing large crops which are ripe for commercial harvesting and shipment midseason and exhibit low susceptibility to walnut blight. The tree of the present variety, 'Gillet,' produces a nut which is similar in some respects to common walnut tree varieties such as 'Chandler,' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 4,388). However the new variety is ready for harvest approximately two weeks before 'Chandler,' and ten days after the common reference cultivar 'Payne' (not patented).

The new *Juglans regia* walnut tree of the present invention was created at Davis, Calif. in 1995 by a controlled cross of the cultivar 'Chico' and UC76-80 (neither patented). The pedigree is illustrated (FIG. 1).

Seeds from the cross were planted and the resulting 37 trees were carefully observed along with other trees in the walnut breeding program. When they began to bear nuts, data were collected annually on leafing date, first peak and last female flower bloom, first, peak and last male bloom, blight severity and yield (Table 1). Nuts were sampled,

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cracked, and data was collected on shell appearance, shell thickness, shell integrity, shell strength, nut weight, kernel weight, percent kernel, ease of kernel removal, kernel color, and percent kernel shrivel (Table 2). A single tree was selected from among progeny of this controlled cross based on its superior attributes. This selection was originally designated 'UC95-22-26,' and is now designated the 'Gillet' cultivar after Felix Gillet, a historical figure said to be responsible for introducing varieties suitable for the northern half of California and therefore responsible for the growth of the walnut industry early in the 20th century. Compared to 'Gillet' the parent UC76-80 is protandrous and the nut has a weaker shell; the parent 'Chico' has smaller nuts than 'Gillet' with a more difficult to extract kernel.

The new cultivar of the present invention has been propagated by grafting at Davis, Calif. on 'Paradox' hybrid rootstock. The distinctive characteristics of the new cultivar have been found to be stable and are transmitted to the new trees when asexually propagated.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It was found that the new *Juglans regia* cultivar of the present invention exhibits the following combination of characteristics:

- a) Comes into bearing young, with an excellent yield at age 3 years;
- b) forms jumbo-sized walnuts that possess light-colored kernels with little size variation in a given harvest;
- c) can be processed inshell or cracked;
- d) bears fruit laterally;
- e) yields a walnut crop that can be harvested 2 weeks prior to 'Chandler' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 4,388).
- f) is protogynous, bearing female flowers before male flowers; and
- g) exhibits low susceptibility to blight.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE TABLES

Table 1 shows comparative tree evaluations.

Table 2 shows nut and kernel traits.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1—shows the pedigree of the 'Gillet' walnut.

FIG. 2—shows a tree of the 'Gillet' walnut at seven years.

FIG. 3—shows a near view of the typical current season's stem of the 'Gillet' walnut.

FIG. 4—shows a near view of the leaves of the 'Gillet' walnut.

FIG. 5—shows a near view of the nuts in the hull of the 'Gillet' walnut just prior to maturity.

FIG. 6—shows nuts in the hull of the 'Gillet' walnut at maturity.

FIG. 7—shows kernel and nut of the 'Gillet' walnut.

BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANT

The description is based on an ungrafted walnut on its own roots and trees propagated by grafting on Paradox rootstock and growing in an orchard at Davis, Calif. Data were collected on the own rooted tree from 1999, at age 3 years, to 2003, age seven.

In 2002, scionwood from this tree was collected and grafted onto Paradox rootstock for further evaluation in three sites: Davis, Chico and Kearney.

The Munsell Book of Color is used in the identification of color. Also, common color terms are to be accorded their ordinary dictionary significance.

Botanical classification: *Juglans regia*. *Female parent*.—'Chico'. *Male parent*.—UC76-80.

The pedigree is shown (FIG. 1).

Plant: The growth habit of the tree is illustrated in FIG. 2. This 7 year old tree was approximately 22 feet in height with a canopy diameter of approximately 19 feet. The trunk diameter at 30 cm above the ground is approximately 20 cm. The silvery grey bark is typical of *Juglans regia*. The young bark is brown (2.9GY 2.3/3.6) with raised white lenticels (FIG. 3) and the older bark is grey (5Y 7.5/2) with lighter striations (7 YR 8/2). On one-year-old bark there are about 12 lenticels per 2.5 cm of stem measuring approximately 1.5 cm in diameter. 'Gillet's lenticels are oval, measure 2–10 mm by 1–2 mm and are light grey yellow brown (9.7YR 4.6/2.1). 'Gillet' has vigor similar to the 'Serr' variety. The surface texture of trunk branch, leaflets, hull and kernel are smooth.

Foliage: The dark green foliage is illustrated (FIG. 4) and is typical of *Juglans regia*. Leaf out during 1994–2003 has occurred on March 30 on the average. For comparative purposes the 'Payne' cultivar leafed out 9 days earlier and the 'Chandler' cultivar leafed out 7 days later during the same years. The typical leaf coloration is green, 6.1GY 3.2/5.8, on the upper surface, and slightly lighter (5.0GY 4.5/8.2) on the lower surface. The leaves are pinnately compound with 5–7 (9) leaflets. The full leaf length is approximately 37 cm and the width 26.6 cm. Leaflets are broadly elliptical and entire. The terminal leaflet averages 15 cm in length and 10 cm in width. The middle leaflets average 13 cm in length and 7.6 cm in width and the proximal leaflets

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average 8.9 cm in length and 5.4 cm in width. If 7 leaflets are present the first (proximal) set is smallest averaging 6.3 cm in length and 4 cm in width. The rachis averages 22.4 cm in length and is 1–2 mm in diameter. Petioles average length is 7 cm, 2–4 mm in diameter and 5GY 7/8 in color.

Inflorescence: The tree is relatively precocious, an excellent yield being noted at age 3 years. Male flowers (catkins) were not present until age 5. This delay in male maturity is typical of *Juglans regia*. The catkin's diameter is about 15 mm and yellow-green (5GY 6/8). Catkin length ranges between 7 and 13 cm. From 1999 to 2003, first female bloom occurred on an average on April 4, peak bloom on April 8 and last bloom on April 15. From 2001 to 2003, average male flowering (pollen shedding) began April 10, peaked on April 18 and terminated April 27. In this protogynous tree, pollen shedding does not completely cover pistillate bloom suggesting that a pollenizer would be needed for maximum yield in isolated areas. Both 'UC90-31-10' (patent application No. 10/912,852) and 'Serr' (unpatented) would be satisfactory pollenizers. The female flowers are typical of Juglans regia with two flowers per inflorescence borne at both terminal and lateral positions on current season's growth. Approximately 98% of the lateral buds contain inflorescences making yields much greater than trees that only bear flowers terminally. A typical female flower is approximately 5 to 7 mm at anthesis and the floral organs are typical of *J. regia*. The flowers appear vase-shaped when the two plumose stigmatic arms are curved outwardly. There are no petals. The flowers measure 5–7 mm in length and 3–5 mm in diameter and are yellow-green (5GY 6/8) in color. They are borne usually in twos on a 1 cm spike. The flower fragrance is typical of J. regia and is not noticeably different than the foliage fragrance.

Walnuts: The new cultivar commonly harvests at least eleven days before 'Chandler' and two weeks after 'Payne' but may become earlier as the clone ages. During 2003, nuts of this new cultivar were ready for harvest on October 1. This compares with 'Payne' that harvested September 21, and 'Chandler' that harvested October 19. The new cultivar has excellent yields of jumbo-sized walnuts. The hull is globose, 5 cm×5 cm, 5.8 mm thick and 2.5GY 8/6 in color. The apex is between rounded and truncate, the base is round and it is approximately 1.3–1.5 mm thick. The round nutshell is tan, relatively smooth, and measures approximately 38.7 mm in length and 38.5 mm in width. The shell is strong and well sealed and the kernel is easy to remove. The kernel weighs 8.2 g and makes up 51.5% of the total nut weight of 16.0 g. Kernel color is considered excellent and scores mostly in the light to extra light categories of the USDA Standards for Grades of Shelled Walnuts as determined by using the standard Walnut Color Chart for kernels published by the Dried Fruit Association of California. In addition kernels of 'Gillet' scored 55 on the Relative Light Index used by Diamond Walnut of Stockton, Calif. These values are based on 5 year averages of ten walnut samples obtained each year from a young tree. Typical kernel dimensions are approximately 31.8 mm in length and 32.3 mm in width. The kernel is essentially round and splits into halves easily. It is plump in comparison to 'Chandler'. It is typical of commercial walnuts in terms of flavor and firmness, the latter varying according to the percent moisture after drying.

Hardiness: The non-bearing tree withstood a temperature of 21° F. in 1998.

Chilling requirement: Trees have not shown staggered leafing and bloom, symptoms of lack of chilling when exposed to over 767 chilling hours (hours under 45° F.).

Disease resistance and susceptibility: Susceptibility to walnut blight has been low even though adjacent trees have been severely afflicted. No other unusual resistance or susceptibility to insects and diseases has been observed to date.

Usage: The new cultivar of the present invention provides a mid-season harvesting walnut cultivar with light colored kernels that can be used cracked or in shell.

TABLE 1

	7	TREE EVAL			
	Leafing date	DAP L	Male bloom date	DAP M	Female bloom date
1999					
Payne Tulare Chandler Sexton Gillet Forde 2000	3/24 4/10 4/13 4/6 4/11 4/14	0 17 20 13 18 21	4/14 4/17 4/17 4/18	0 3 3 4	4/18 4/25 4/28 4/19 4/22 4/23
Payne Tulare Chandler Sexton Gillet Forde 2001	3/19 4/3 4/4 3/28 3/30 4/3	0 15 16 9 11 15	3/31 4/11 4/12 4/5	0 11 12 5	4/5 4/15 4/20 4/10 4/7 4/10
Payne Tulare Chandler Sexton Gillet Forde 2002	3/17 3/29 3/29 3/22 3/23 3/24	0 12 12 5 6 7	3/27 4/10 4/10 3/26 4/15 4/15	0 13 13 0 18 18	4/1 4/20 4/23 4/7 3/30 4/3
Payne Tulare Chandler Sexton Gillet Forde 2003	3/27 4/6 4/7 4/1 4/1 4/2	0 10 11 5 5	4/6 4/15 4/17 4/10 4/23 4/23	0 9 11 4 17 17	4/12 4/24 4/27 4/15 4/11 4/13
Payne Tulare Chandler Sexton Gillet Forde 5 YEAR AVERAGE	3/18 4/5 4/7 3/24 3/24 3/27	0 18 20 6 6 9	4/5 4/18 4/20 4/5 4/18 4/23	0 13 15 0 13 18	4/9 4/26 5/3 4/9 4/4 4/9
Payne Tulare Chandler Sexton Gillet Forde	3/21 4/4 4/7 3/29 3/30 4/1	0 14 16 8 9 11	4/4 4/14 4/15 4/6 4/19 4/20	0 10 11 2 16 18	4/9 4/22 4/26 4/12 4/8 4/12
	DAP F	Harvest Date	DAP H	Season length	Overlap %
1999					
Payne Tulare Chandler Sexton Gillet Forde	0 7 10 1 4 5	9/24 10/5 10/19 10/1 10/22	0 11 25 7 16 28	159 166 174 165 171 182	89 27 53 88

	T	ABLE 1-co	ntinued		
	Т	REE EVALU	ATIONS		
2000					
Payne Tulare Chandler Sexton Gillet Forde 2001	0 10 15 5 2 5	9/13 10/3 10/12 9/30 9/26 10/7	0 20 29 17 13 24	161 172 175 173 172 180	89 100 67 54
Payne Tulare Chandler Sexton Gillet Forde 2002	0 20 22 6 -2 2	9/9 9/27 10/7 9/29 9/18 9/29	0 15 28 20 9 20	161 160 167 175 172 179	89 85 38 53
Payne Tulare Chandler Sexton Gillet Forde 2003	0 12 15 3 -1 1	9/18 10/3 10/9 10/3 10/4 10/6	0 16 21 15 16 18	159 162 165 171 176 176	60 91 75 83 40 11
Payne Tulare Chandler Sexton Gillet Forde 5 YEAR AVERAGE	0 17 25 0 -5 0	9/21 10/5 10/10 10/6 10/1 10/3	0 14 19 15 10 12	165 164 160 180 180 177	62 92 50 100 42 20
Payne Tulare Chandler Sexton Gillet Forde	0 13 17 3 0 3	9/17 10/3 10/11 10/1 9/30 10/7	0 17 24 15 13 20	161 165 168 173 174 179	78 79 57 76 41 15
	Male abundance	Female abundance	Lateral fruitfulnes: %	s Yield	Blight
1999					
Payne Tulare Chandler Sexton Gillet Forde 2000	6 4 4 6	7 6 5 7 5 6	100 90 90 100 90 100	6 6 5 7 5 4	3 0 3 2 0
Payne Tulare Chandler Sexton Gillet Forde 2001	6 6 4 5	6 6 5 6 6 5	100 100 90 100 100 100	6 4 6 6 6	5 4 0 0 0
Payne Tulare Chandler Sexton Gillet Forde 2002	7 6 5 5 3 2	6 6 5 6 6	100 70 100 100 100 100	5 5 4 6 7 7	8 3 2 1 0
Payne Tulare Chandler	7 5 5	6 6 6	100 100 100	7 6 6	3 0 1

100

Sexton

		TABLE	E 1-co	ontinued					TAB	LE 2-co	ntinued		
TREE EVALUATIONS							NUT AND KERNEL TRAITS						
Gillet Forde 2003	4	6	_	100 100	6 6	0	Gillet Forde 2002	5 5	5 5	4 5	4 5	7 7	1.2 1.5
Payne Tulare Chandler Sexton Gillet Forde	5 4 5 6 4	6 6 6 6	5 5 5	100 100 100 100 100	6 6 4 6 7 7	7 5 0 2 1 2	Payne Tulare Chandler Sexton Gillet Forde	5 5 4 5 5	5 4 5 5 4	5 5 5 4 5	5 4 5 5 5	7 7 7 7 7	1.0 1.2 1.5 1.4 1.3 1.5
5 YEAR AVERAGE	•			100	,	_	2003		•			•	1.5
Payne Tulare Chandler Sexton Gillet Forde KEY TO TAI	6.2 5.2 4.4 5.4 4.3 3.3	6 5 6 5	5.2 5.4 5.2 5.8 5.8	100 92 96 100 98 100	6 5.8 4.6 6.2 6.2 6	5.2 2.4 1.2 1 0.2 0.4	Payne Tulare Chandler Sexton Gillet Forde 5 YEAR AVERAGE	5 6 4 5 6	5 6 4 5 5 5	5 5 5 5 8	6 4 5 5 6	7 7 7 7 7	1.6 1.2 1.3 1.5 1.3
DAP L Male bloom of DAP M	date	and the b green lear Days after Days after Days after	oud sca ves er Payn en max er Payn	of terminal les have spl le (reference imum poller le (reference	it exposing cultivar) lending cultivar) n	the eafing occurs nale bloom	Payne Tulare Chandler Sexton Gillet Forde	5 5.2 5 4.2 5.2 5.4	5 5.8 4.2 5.2 5 4.8	5 4.8 5 5.2 4 5	5.2 4.2 4.2 5.4 4.6 5.2	7 7 7 7 7	1.4 1.2 1.4 1.5 1.3
Female bloom DAP F	n date			um pistillate ie (reference		-		Packi tissu	~	Inshell weight		ernel eight	Kernel %
Harvest Date	;	Date whe	en 95%	of the nuts	separate fr	om the	1999						
DAP H Season length Overlap % Male abundar Female abund	nce	Days between Percent of bloom Male flow 7 high	ween for for the second	e (reference emale flowe le bloom ov andance: 3 l	ring and haverlapped by	rvest y male mediate;	Payne Tulare Chandler Sexton Gillet Forde	5 5 5 5 5		18.9 14.0 13.7 14.2 18.5 18.8		5.3 7.7 7.1 8.9 8.2 9.7	44.9 57.7 52.2 48.4 49.8 51.7
Lateral fruitfi Yield Blight DFA Dried F	ulness %	7 high Percent of Yield: 3 length income of Control of	of latera low; 5 cidence	al buds with intermediates: 3 low; 5 i	female flore; 7 high	wers	Payne Tulare Chandler Sexton Gillet Forde 2001	5 5 5 5 5		12.8 16.4 13.7 17.0 17.0		6.1 9.2 6.7 8.6 9.0 0.3	48.0 58.5 49.1 50.7 52.9 58.8
	1	NUT AND	KERN	NEL TRAIT	S		Payne	5		15.4		7.4	48.2
1999	Texture	Color	Seal	SHELL	Integrity	Thickness	Tulare Chandler Sexton Gillet Forde 2002	5 5 5 5 5		18.9 15.0 16.0 15.0 15.1		8.8 7.5 8.2 8.1 8.0	52.5 49.7 51.2 53.8 53.0
Payne Tulare Chandler Sexton Gillet Forde 2000	5 5 5 5 5	5 6 4 5 5 5	5 4 5 6 3 5	5 4 4 6 5 5	7 7 7 7 7	1.3 1.2 1.5 1.5 1.6	Payne Tulare Chandler Sexton Gillet Forde 2003	5 5 5 5 5		12.1 15.0 13.7 18.5 15.2 16.7		5.6 8.2 6.2 9.9 7.7 8.9	46.8 55.0 45.4 53.4 50.8 53.4
Payne Tulare Chandler Sexton Gillet Forde 2001	5 6 5 4 6 8	5 6 5 6 5 5	5 4 5 4 4	5 5 4 6 4 5	7 7 7 7 7	1.4 1.3 1.4 1.7 1.3 1.2	Payne Tulare Chandler Sexton Gillet Forde	5 5 5 5 5		15.6 15.2 13.6 15.4 16.2 17.6		7.4 8.5 7.1 7.7 8.2 9.1	47.1 55.9 51.1 50.2 50.5 51.7
Payne Tulare Chandler Sexton	5 5 5 4	5 6 4 5	5 5 5 5	5 4 4 5	7 7 7 7	1.5 1.3 1.5 1.6	5 YEAR AVERAGE Payne Tulare	5 5		14.8 15.5		6.4 8.5	47 55.5

TABLE 2-continued

	NUT .	AND KERNEL	TRAITS	
Chandler	5	14	6.9	49.5
Sexton	5	16.2	8.3	50.8
Gillet	5	16	8.2	51.6
Forde	5	17.1	9.2	53.7

			KERI	NEL		
	Fill	Plumpness	Ease of removal	Blanks %	Extra light %	Light %
1999						
Payne Tulare Chandler Sexton	5 5 4 5	4 5 5 5	4 4 3 4	0 0 0 0	50 0 90 100	30 100 10 0
Gillet Forde 2000	5 5	5	5	0	0	100 100
Payne Tulare Chandler Sexton Gillet Forde 2001	5 5 5 5 5	5 4 5 4 5	4 5 4 5 5 4	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 60 0 0	100 100 40 80 90 90
Payne Tulare Chandler Sexton Gillet Forde 2002	5 4 6 5 5	5 4 5 4 5	5 4 5 5 5	0 0 0 0 0	30 0 100 40 0	70 100 0 60 90 90
Payne Tulare Chandler Sexton Gillet Forde 2003	5 4 6 5 5	5 5 4 5 5 5	5 4 5 5 4	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 100 50 0 100	90 100 0 50 100 0
Payne Tulare Chandler Sexton Gillet Forde 5 YEAR AVERAGE	5 6 5 5 5	 5 4 5 5 5 5 	5 4 4 5 5 4	0 10 0 0 0	0 33 100 40 10 50	90 67 0 40 90 50
Payne Tulare Chandler Sexton Gillet Forde	5 5.2 4.4 5.6 5	4.8 5 4.2 5 4.4 5.4	4.6 4.6 3.6 4.8 5 4.4	0 2 0 0 0	16 7 90 46 2 30	76 93 10 48 94 66

	KERNEL							
	Light amber %	Amber %	Tip shrivel %	Other shrivel %	Veins %			
1999								
Payne	20	0	0	20	30			
Tulare	0	0	0	0	0			
Chandler	0	0	30	0	0			
Sexton	0	0	20	0	0			
Gillet	0	0	0	0	0			
Forde	0	0	0	0	0			

TABLE 2-continued

	NUT	T AND KER	ENEL TRAITS	S	
2000					
Payne	0	0	1	O	30
Tulare	0	0	1	0	0
Chandler	0	0	40	0	0
Sexton	20	0	10	0	10
Gillet	10	0	20	0	20
Forde	0	10	10	0	0
2001					
Payne	О	0	О	О	20
Tulare	0	0	20	0	0
Chandler	0	0	10	0	0
Sexton	0	0	10	0	10
Gillet	10	0	0	0	0
Forde	10	0	0	0	0
2002					
Payne	10	O	0	O	0
Tulare	0	0	0	0	0
Chandler	0	0	4 0	0	0
Sexton	0	0	0	0	0
Gillet	0	0	0	10	10
Forde	0	0	0	0	0
2003					
Payne	10	0	O	O	10
Tulare	0	0	0	0	0
Chandler	0	0	20	0	0
Sexton	20	0	20	20	0
Gillet	0	0	10	0	0
Forde	0	0	10	0	0
5 YEAR					
AVERAGE					
Payne	8	0	0.2	4	18
Tulare	O	0	4	O	O
Chandler	O	0	28	O	0
Sexton	8	0	12	4	4
Gillet	4	0	6	2	6
Forde	2	2	4	0	0

KEY FOR TABLE 2

Texture	Shell texture: 3 smooth; 5 medium; 7 rough
Color	Shell color: 3 light; 5 medium; 7 dark
Seal	Shell seal: 3 weak; 5 intermediate; 7 strong
Strength	Shell strength: 3 weak; 5 intermediate; 7 strong
Integrity	Shell integrity: 3 substantial area of shell missing;
	5 small area of missing shell; 6 stem end hole;
	7 complete shell
Thickness	Shell thickness at mid-cheek in mm
Packing tissue	Inner lining: 3 thin; 5 medium; 7 thick
Inshell weight	gm
Kernel weight	gm
Kernel %	Kernel wt/ inshell wt × 100
Fill	Kernel fill: 3 poor; 5 moderate; 7 well
Plumpness	Kernel plumpness: 3 thin; 5 moderate; 7 plump
Ease of removal	Ease of removal of kernel halves: 3 easy; 5 moderate;
	7 difficult
Blanks %	Percent of nuts without a kernel
Extra light %	Percent of kernels in extra light category (DFA)
Light %	Percent of kernels in light category (DFA)
Light amber %	Percent of kernels in light amber category (DFA)
Amber %	Percent of kernels in amber category (DFA)
Tip shrivel %	Percent of kernels with tip shrivel like Chandler
Other shrivel %	Percent of kernels with more substantial shrivel
Veins %	Percent of kernels with conspicuous veins

What we claim is:

DFA Dried Fruit Association of CA

1. A new variety of walnut tree substantially as shown and described herein.

FIG.

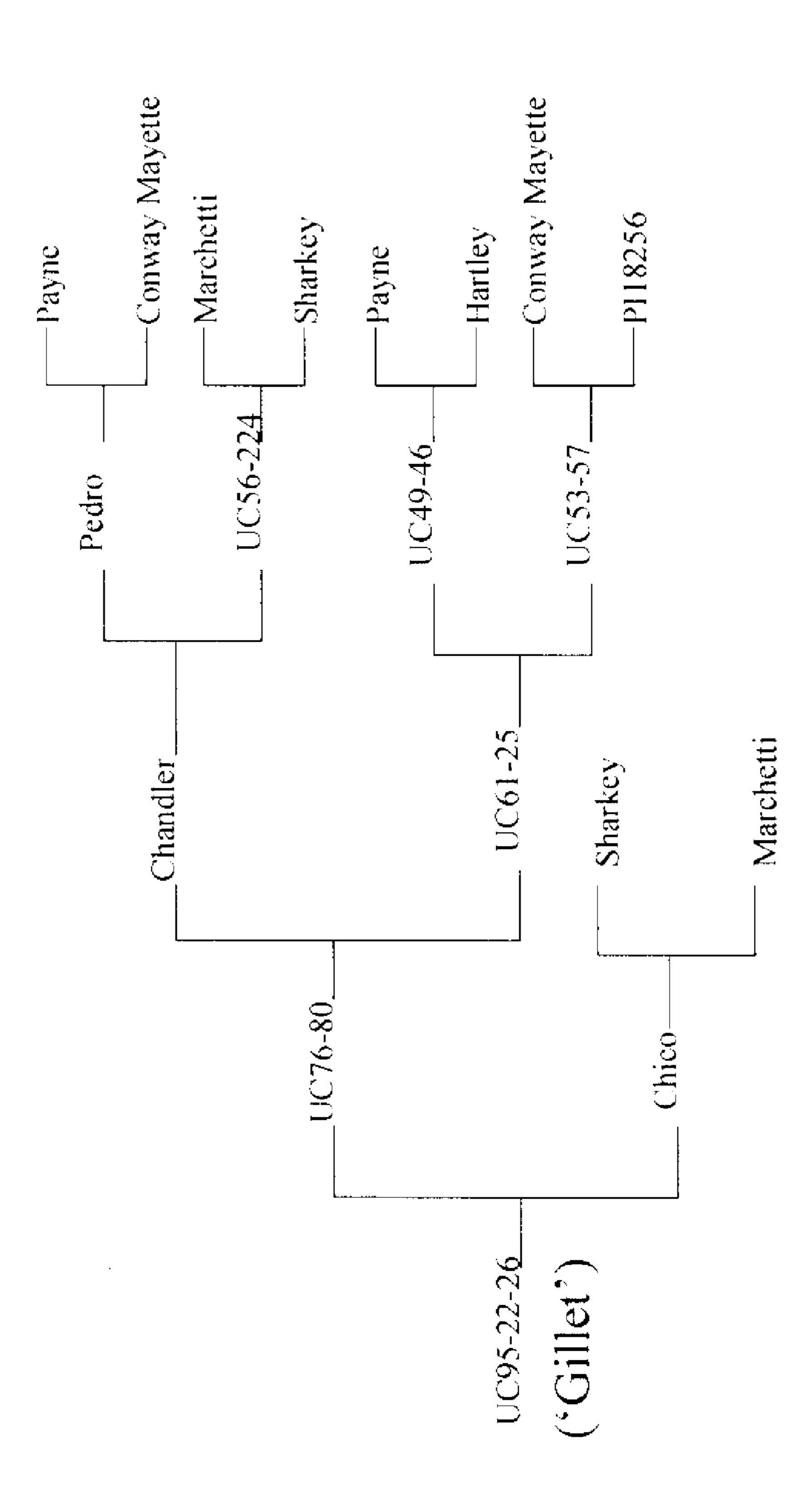
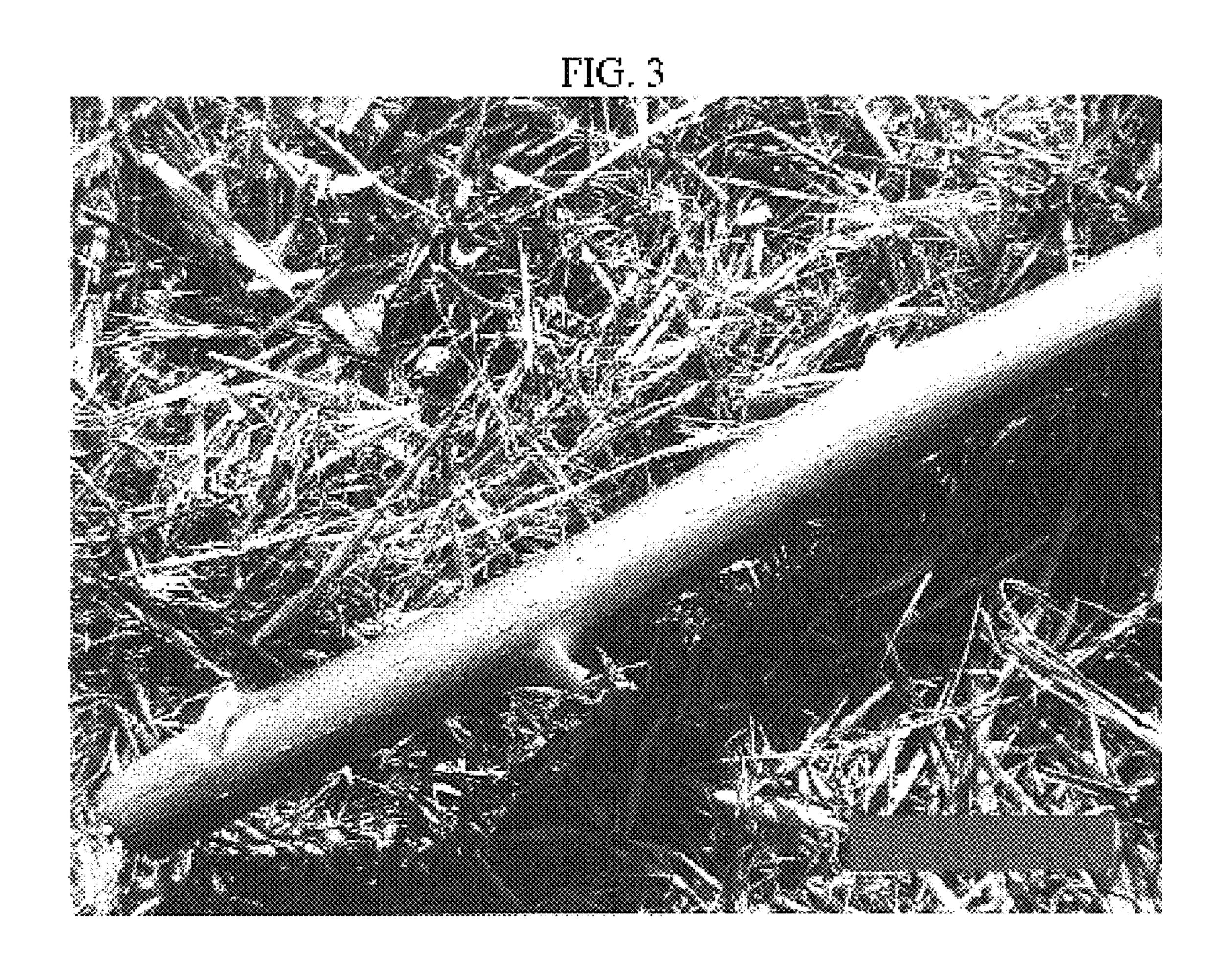
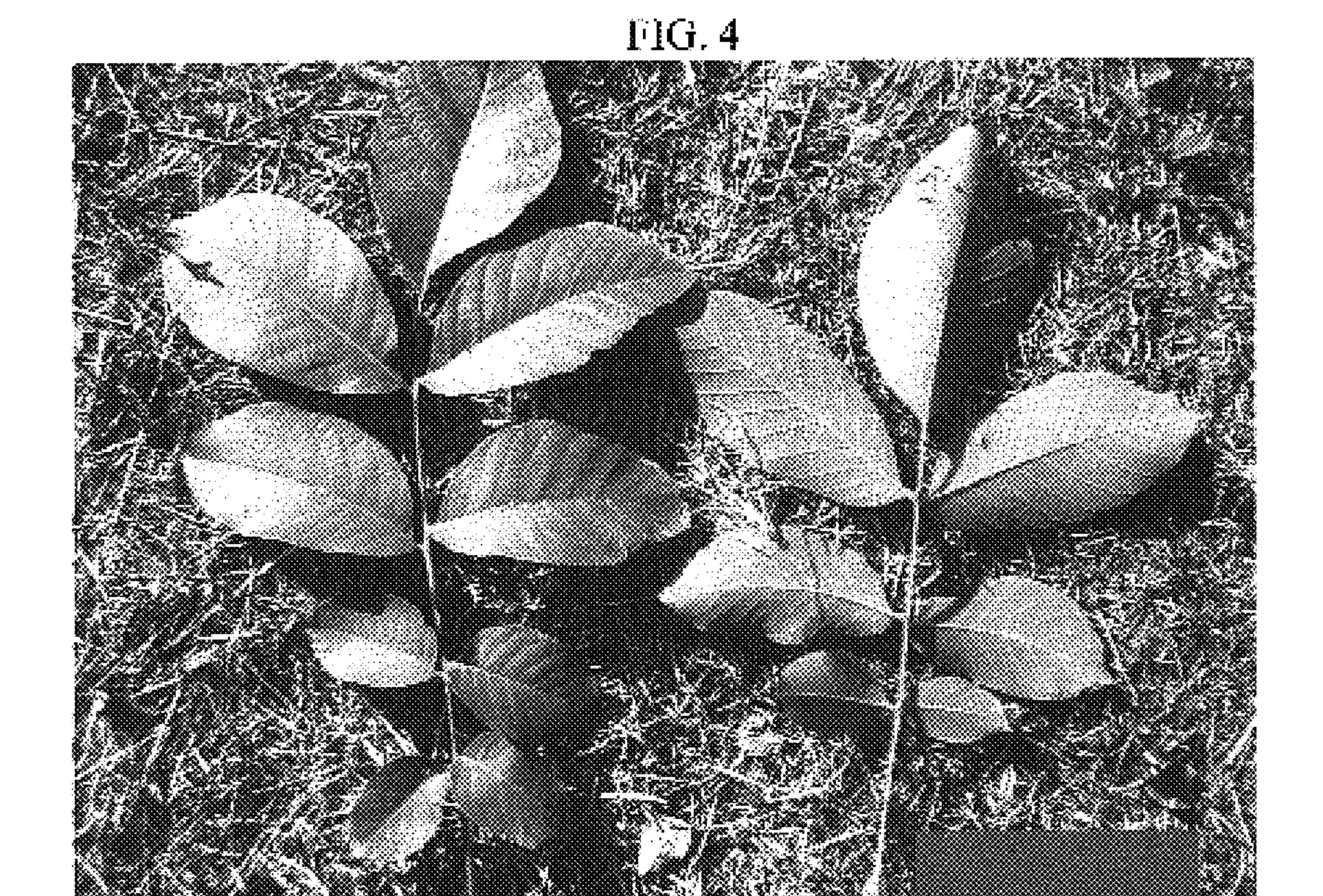


FIG. 2







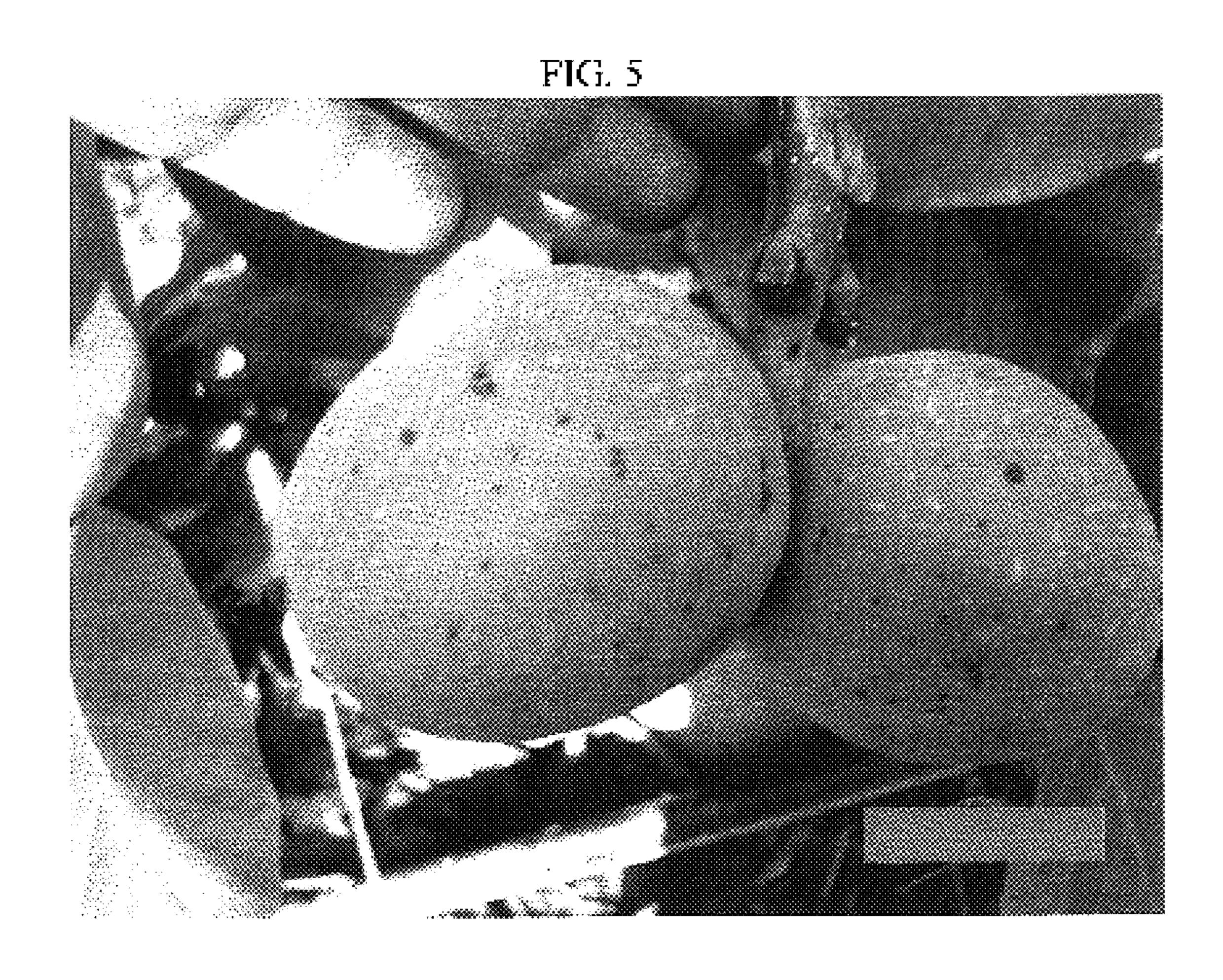


FIG. 6

