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Shibamichi

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(54) **PLANT VARIETY OF *DAVIDIA***
***INVOLUCRATA* NAMED 'PURPLELEAF'**

(50) Latin Name: *Davidia involucrata*
Varietal Denomination: **Purpleleaf**

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patent is extended or adjusted under 35
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(58) **Field of Classification Search** Plt./216
See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new plant variety of *Davidia involucrata* distinguished
from its parents and all other varieties of *Davidia involu-*
crata of which I am aware by the dark burgundy colored
foliage in spring through leaf abscission in fall.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Botanical classification: *Davidia involucrata* (Baill.).
Varietal name: 'Purpleleaf'.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct variety
of *Davidia involucrata*, which was developed in a controlled
breeding program in Kawaguchi City, Japan, by the origi-
nator Mr. Akira Shibamichi. The varietal denomination of
the new variety is 'Purpleleaf'.

The genus *Davidia* is included in the family Davidiaceae,
which comprises one genus and one species originating in
Western China. *Davidia involucrata* is uncommon in its
native habit of Western China. It generally has a habit of a
20 meter tall deciduous tree with a dominant central leader,
branches thick, glabrous. Leaf color is green, depending on
light intensity and cultural conditions. Leaves are generally
broadly ovate, 8 to 24 cms long, cordate at base, dentate,
glossy and glabrous above, densely gray tomentose beneath.
Petioles are 4 to 5 cms long, red, flowers are about 2 cm
wide, surrounded by 2 opposite, uneven sized, 8 to 16 cm
long, pendulous, yellowish white involucral leaves. Plant
blooms May to June on older, mature specimens often more
than 20 years in age. Fruits are ellipsoid, about 2.5 cms long.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The new variety was discovered as an open pollinated
seedling in a controlled planting of *Davidia involucrata*. The
new variety differs from its parents in bearing dark burgundy
colored foliage in spring and continuing through leaf abscis-
sion in fall. Asexual reproduction of the new variety in
Kawaguchi City, Japan by grafting has confirmed that the
distinctive characteristics of the new variety are stable and
reproduced true to type in successive generations of asexual
propagation.

COMPARISON WITH PARENTS

'Purpleleaf' is distinguished from its parents and all other
varieties of *Davidia involucrata* of which I am aware,

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including the specific variety, *Davidia involucrata* var. *Vil-*
moriniana (not patented) by the dark burgundy colored
foliage in spring through leaf abscission in fall.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ILLUSTRATIONS

The accompanying illustrations show a specimen of the
new cultivar in a photo illustration as true to color as is
reasonably possible to make in an illustration of this char-
acter.

FIG. 1 illustrates the distinctive foliage of the new variety.

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW
VARIETY**

'Purpleleaf' has not been observed under all possible
environmental, cultural and light conditions. The following
observations and descriptions are of plants grown in
Kawaguchi City, Japan and Vacaville, Calif. In this
description, color references are to The Royal Horticultural
Society Colour Chart (2002) and terminology used in the
color descriptions herein refers to plate numbers in this color
chart. Phenotypic expression may vary with light intensity,
cultural and environmental conditions.

Classification:

Botanical.—*Davidia involucrata* (Baill.) 'Purpleleaf'.

Parentage.—Mother Plant *Davidia involucrata*
(unnamed, unpatented). Father Plant *Davidia involu-*
crata (unnamed, unpatented).

Propagation.—Grafting.

Plant:

Typical size.—20 meters tall.

Observed size.—1.5 meters tall.

Habit.—Upright, pyramidal.

Branches:

Lateral branches.—8 to 10.

Size.—Diameter: Base 10 to 20 mms; Apex 2–3 mms.

Color: Near Grey-Brown Group N199A. *Texture:*

Glabrous. *Color of New Shoots:* Near Brown Group

200B–C.

Leaf:

Shape.—Broadly ovate. Base: Cordate to dentate.

Apex: Acuminate.

Leaf size.—8 to 14 cms long and 5 to 8 cms wide.

Arrangement.—Alternate.

Margin.—Entire.

Texture/substance.—Glossy and glabrous above and densely tomentose beneath.

Color.—Young Foliage Upper side: Near Purple Group 79A–B. Mature Foliage: Upper side: Near 79B with slight coloration of Green Group 136C.

Venation.—Pattern: Upper Surface Impressed.

Petioles.—Size: 7.5 cms long; 1 to 2 mm wide. Color:

Near Brown Group 200B. Texture: Smooth.

Internodes.—3 to 8 cms.

Hardiness.—USDA Zone 5 (–20° F. to –10° F.).

Vigor.—Moderate.

Pests/diseases.—None noted.

Inflorescence. None yet observed.

I claim:

1. A new and distinct *Davidia involucrata* plant of the variety substantially as shown and described.

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FIG. 1

