

(12) **United States Plant Patent**  
**Brown, Jr.**

(10) **Patent No.:** **US PP17,325 P2**  
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Dec. 26, 2006**

(54) **PERSICARIA PLANT NAMED ‘CHOCOLATE DRAGON’**

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

(50) Latin Name: *Persicaria microcephala*  
Varietal Denomination: **Chocolate Dragon**

(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **Plt./263**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** ..... Plt./263  
See application file for complete search history.

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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 2 days.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Persicaria* plant characterized  
by its compact habit and multicolored leaves exhibiting a  
two-toned effect with the younger leaves dark purple brown  
and patterned while the older leaves are green and patterned.

(21) Appl. No.: **11/166,542**

(22) Filed: **Jun. 24, 2005**

**1 Drawing Sheet**

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Botanical denomination: *Persicaria microcephala*.  
Variety designation: ‘Chocolate Dragon’.

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar  
of an herbaceous perennial of the genus, *Persicaria*, and  
known by the cultivar name of ‘Chocolate Dragon’. The  
genus *Persicaria* is a member of the family Polygonaceae.

The new cultivar is a seedling of *Persicaria microcephala*  
‘Red Dragon’ (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 12,062). It was found  
among hundreds of seedlings in a neighborhood backyard.

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

This new cultivar is characterized by:

1) Striking leaves that are purple brown when young and  
mature to being brown with a silvery olive chevron and  
then become bright green with a dark basal blotch. This  
gives the plant a two toned effect.

2) Low, mounding habit.

The new variety has been reproduced only by asexual  
propagation (cutting and micropropagation). Each of the  
progeny exhibits identical characteristics to the original  
plant. Asexual propagation by division and micropropaga-  
tion using standard techniques with terminal and lateral  
shoots as done in Canby, Oreg., shows that the foregoing  
characteristics and distinctions come true to form and are  
established and transmitted through succeeding propaga-  
tions. The present invention has not been evaluated under all  
possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary  
with variations in environment without a change in the  
genotype of the plant.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING**

FIG. 1 shows a two-year-old plant growing in the garden  
in Canby, Oreg.

FIG. 2 shows a close up.

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**DETAILED PLANT DESCRIPTION**

The following is a detailed description of the new cultivar  
based on observations of two-year-old specimens growing in  
late September in the ground in full sun under typical  
outdoor conditions in the trial fields in Canby, Oreg. Canby  
is in Zone 8 on the USDA Hardiness map. Temperatures  
range from a high of 95 degrees F. in August to 32 degrees  
F. in January. Normal rainfall in Canby is 42.8 inches per  
year. The color descriptions are all based on The Royal  
Horticultural Society Colour Chart.

Botanical name: *Persicaria microcephala*.

Cultivar name: ‘Chocolate Dragon’.

Plant:

*Type*.—Herbaceous perennial.

*Form*.—Mound.

*Hardiness*.—USDA Zones 5 to 9.

*Size*.—80 cm tall and 100 cm wide.

*Habit*.—Clumping.

Stem:

*Type*.—Succulent, with swollen nodes and sheath-like  
membranous stipules, well branched.

*Diameter*.—4.5 mm above the third node down from  
the tip, 8 mm at plant base.

*Internode spacing*.—4 to 10 cm.

*Surface*.—Glabrous.

*Color*.—Dark purple red. Greyed Purple 185A.

Leaf:

*Type*.—Simple.

*Arrangement*.—Alternate.

*Shape*.—Ovate.

*Venation*.—Pinnate.

*Margins*.—Entire.

*Apex*.—Accuminate to cuspidate.

*Base*.—Truncate.

*Blade size*.—5.6 to 7.4 cm long and 3 to 3.7 cm wide.

*Surface texture*.—Sparsely pubescent.

*Petiole size*.—7 to 10 mm and clasping at base and 2  
mm wide.

*Petiole and major vein color.*—Greyed Purple 185A to 187C.

*Leaf color.*—Variable depending on the light intensity. New leaves topside: Between Brown 200A and Greyed Purple 187A with an even darker, triangle-shaped basal spot, Greyed Purple 187A and a light v-shaped chevron at edge of spot, Grey 201D blended with Brown 200A. New leaves bottom side: Closest to Greyed Orange 177A. Full size dark leaf topside: Khaki or grey greenish brown (closest to Greyed Green 197A but darker and browner) with a lighter chevron (Greyed Yellow 160 but duller) and a darker spot at the base, Brown 200A. Mature leaves bottom side: Between Greyed Orange 177A and Greyed Green 197A. Older leaves topside: Green 147A with lighter at chevron and spot is khaki (closest to Greyed Green 197A but darker and browner). Older leaves bottom side: Yellow Green 147B.

**Inflorescence:**

*Type.*—Terminal compound corymbs.

*Number of flowers.*—50 per corymb.

*Corymb size.*—Variable. 3.5 cm wide and 3 cm deep without peduncle.

*Peduncle description.*—2.5 to 3 cm long and 2 mm wide, glabrous to sparsely pubescent, Greyed Red 181A.

*Pedicel.*—Greyed Red 181C, sparsely pubescent.

*Bloom period.*—August to frost in Canby, Oreg.

**Flower bud:**

*Size.*—3 mm long and 2 mm wide.

*Description.*—Ovoid.

*Color.*—Light pink, Red 54C with White 155D tips.

**Flower:**

*Type.*—Perfect, actinomorphic.

*Shape.*—Campanulate.

*Size.*—3 mm deep and 3 mm wide.

*Petal description.*—5 overlapping lobes, margins entire, apex acute, waxy and thick surface texture.

*Petal color.*—White 155D at tips and light pink, Red 56D to Red 54C at base. The same on both sides.

*Calyx.*—Scarious, 0.5 mm deep and wide, margins entire, apex acute.

*Calyx color.*—Greyed Orange 177D.

*Stamen number.*—8.

*Filaments.*—White 155D.

*Anther color.*—Purple 79C.

*Pollen color.*—White 155D.

*Pistil color.*—White 155D.

*Pistil.*—Three branched style, 3 capitulate stigmas.

*Fragrance.*—None.

*Lastingness.*—Each corymb blooms for about 3 weeks on the plant.

Fruit: Never seen.

Seed: Never seen.

Disease and pest resistance and tolerance: *Persicaria* as a genus are susceptible to aphids, slugs and snails. No insect or diseases have been noted on *Persicaria* 'Chocolate Dragon'.

**Comparison to Similar *Persicaria***

Compared to its parent *Persicaria* 'Red Dragon' (U.S. Pat. No. 12,062), *Persicaria* 'Chocolate Dragon' is much shorter and more compact with smaller leaves. While *Persicaria* 'Red Dragon' is sprawling and weaving in its habit, this new variety forms a clean mound. Its leaves have a two toned effect for the whole plant with the dark new leaves and the green older leaves. *Persicaria* 'Red Dragon' has less contrast but more pattern. Both have red purple stems.

I claim:

1. A new and distinct hybrid of *Persicaria* plant as herein illustrated and described.

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Figure 1



Figure 2