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(12) **United States Plant Patent**
Ramirez

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(54) **PORTULACA PLANT NAMED**
'BALRIOSCAR'

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

(50) Latin Name: *Portulaca oleracea*
Varietal Denomination: **Balrioscar**

(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 60 days.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Portulaca* plant named
'Balrioscar' characterized by its bright scarlet-colored
flowers, medium green-colored foliage with grayed purple-
colored margin, and vigorous, low spreading growth habit.

(21) Appl. No.: **11/284,048**

1 Drawing Sheet

(22) Filed: **Nov. 21, 2005**

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Latin name of genus and species of plant claimed: *Portu-*
laca oleracea.

Variety denomination: 'Balrioscar'.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of *Portulaca* plant botanically known as *Portulaca oleracea*
and hereinafter referred to by the cultivar name 'Balrioscar'.

The new cultivar originated in a controlled breeding
program in Cartago, Costa Rica during January 2002. The
objective of the breeding program was the development of
free flowering *Portulaca* cultivars with well-branched, and
vigorous, spreading growth habit.

The new cultivar was the result of a self-pollination of the
proprietary *Portulaca oleracea* breeding selection design-
ated 'Wild Fire Scarlet', not patented, characterized by its
light scarlet-colored flowers, and compact, trailing growth
habit. The new cultivar was discovered and selected by the
inventor as a single flowering plant within the progeny of the
above stated self-pollination during June 2002 in a con-
trolled environment at Cartago, Costa Rica.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by terminal stem
cuttings since June 2002 at Cartago, Costa Rica and West
Chicago, Ill. has demonstrated that the new cultivar repro-
duces true to type with all characteristics, as herein
described, firmly fixed and retained through successive
generations of such asexual propagation.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The following characteristics of the new cultivar have
been repeatedly observed and can be used to distinguish
'Balrioscar' as a new and distinct cultivar of '*Portulaca*'
plant:

1. Bright scarlet-colored flowers;
2. Medium green-colored foliage with grayed purple-
colored margin; and
3. Vigorous, low spreading growth habit.

Plants of the new cultivar differ from plants of the parent
primarily in flower color and growth habit.

Of the many commercially available *Portulaca* cultivars
known to the inventor, the most similar in comparison to the
new cultivar is 'Summer Joy Wine Red', U.S. Plant Pat. No.
12,251. However, in side by side comparisons, plants of the
new cultivar differ from plants of 'Summer Joy Wine Red'
in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new cultivar have more fully opened
flowers per plant at any one time than plants of 'Sum-
mer Joy Wine Red';
2. Plants of the new cultivar have more secondary
branches than plants of 'Summer Joy Wine Red';
3. Plants of the new cultivar have a different flower color
from plants of 'Summer Joy Wine Red'; and
4. Plants of the new cultivar have a different stigma color
from plants of 'Summer Joy Wine Red'.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying photographs show, as nearly true as it
is reasonably possible to make the same in color illustrations
of this type, typical flower and foliage characteristics of the
new cultivar. Colors in the photographs differ slightly from
the color values cited in the detailed description, which
accurately describes the colors of 'Balrioscar'. The plants
were grown in 10 cm pots for 11 weeks in a greenhouse at
West Chicago, Ill.

FIG. 1 illustrates a side view of the overall growth and
flowering habit of 'Balrioscar'.

FIG. 2 illustrates a close-up view of an individual flower
of 'Balrioscar'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The new cultivar has not been observed under all possible
environmental conditions to date. Accordingly, it is possible
that the phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in the
environment, such as temperature, light intensity, and day
length, without, however, any variance in genotype.

The chart used in the identification of colors described
herein is The R.H.S. Colour Chart of The Royal Horticul-
tural Society, London, England, 2001 edition, except where

general color terms of ordinary significance are used. The color values were determined on Aug. 8, 2005 between 3:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. under natural light conditions, in West Chicago, Ill.

The following descriptions and measurements describe plants produced from cuttings taken from stock plants and grown in a double polycarbonate-covered greenhouse under conditions comparable to those used in commercial practice. The plants were grown at West Chicago, Ill. in 10 cm pots for 11 weeks utilizing a soilless growth medium. Greenhouse temperatures were maintained at approximately 70° F. to 80° F. (21° C. to 26° C.) during the day and approximately 62° F. to 68° F. (17° C. to 20° C.) during the night. Greenhouse light levels of 5,000 to 10,000 footcandles were maintained during the day.

Botanical classification: *Potulaca oleracea* cultivar Balrioscar.

Parentage:

Parent.—‘Wild Fire Scarlet’, not patented.

Propagation:

Type cutting.—Terminal stem.

Time to initiate roots.—Approximately 4 to 7 days.

Time to produce a rooted cutting.—Approximately 14 to 21 days.

Root description.—Fibrous.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching.

Plant description:

Crop time.—Approximately 5 to 6 weeks from a rooted cutting.

Growth habit and general appearance.—Vigorous, low spreading.

Size.—Height from soil level to top of plant plane: Approximately 8.4 cm. Height to top of foliage: Approximately 5.1 cm. Width: Approximately 41.5 cm.

Branching habit.—Freely basal branching. Approximately 4 main branches per plant and approximately 22 secondary branches per plant.

Branch.—Strength: Moderate. Shape: Square in cross section. Length: Approximately 25.5 cm. Diameter: Approximately 3.7 mm. Texture: Glabrous. Color of stem: 145B at tip and 187A at base. Internode length at center of branch: Approximately 1.9 cm.

Foliage.—Number of leaves per main branch: Approximately 14. Fragrance: None. Form: Simple, fleshy succulent. Arrangement: Alternate. Aspect: Obtuse angle to stem. Shape: Elliptic when young becoming obovate with age. Margin: Entire. Apex: Cuspidate. Base: Attenuate. Venation pattern: Pinnate. Length of mature leaf: Approximately 2.0 cm. Width of mature leaf: Approximately 1.3 cm. Depth of mature leaf: Approximately 1.6 mm. Texture of upper and lower surfaces: Glabrous. Color of upper surface of young foliage: Closest to 137C with venation of 150C. Color of lower surface of young foliage: Closest to 138B with venation of 150C. Color of upper surface of mature foliage: Closest to 146A with 187B along margin and venation of 150C. Color

of lower surface of mature foliage: Closest to 138B with 187B along margin and venation of 150C. Petiole length: Approximately 2.0 mm. Petiole diameter: Approximately 2.0 mm. Petiole texture of both surfaces: Glabrous. Petiole color of both surfaces: 150C.

Flowering description:

Flowering habit.—‘Balrioscar’ is freely flowering under outdoor growing conditions with substantially continuous blooming from spring through autumn and year round in greenhouse environment.

Time to first flower.—Approximately 12 weeks after sticking of unrooted cutting.

Lastingness of individual bloom.—Approximately 1 day.

Flower description:

Type.—Solitary, rotate, sessile not persistent. Quantity of fully open flowers per plant at eleven weeks: Approximately 5.

Bud rate of opening.—Generally takes 1 day for bud to progress from first color to fully open flower.

Bud just before opening.—Shape: Ovate. Length: Approximately 1.1 cm. Diameter: Approximately 6.4 mm. Texture: Glabrous. Color: 45C.

Corolla.—Form: Single. Diameter: Approximately 5.9 cm. Corolla depth: Approximately: 1.7 cm.

Petals.—Quantity: 5. Shape: Obovate. Apex: Obtuse. Base: Truncate. Margin: Entire. Appearance: Shiny. Texture of upper and lower surfaces: Glabrous. Petal length: Approximately 2.4 cm. Petal width: Approximately 2.3 cm. Color of upper and lower surfaces: 61B at apex transitioning to 45B in center with 17C just above base and 143B at attachment point.

Sepals.—Quantity per flower: 2. Shape: Ovate. Apex: Acuminate. Sepal length: Approximately 9.4 mm. Sepal width: Approximately 7.2 mm. Texture of upper and lower surfaces: Glabrous. Color of upper and lower surfaces: 144B, translucent with overlay of 28A.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium: Stamen quantity: Approximately 69. Stamen length: Approximately 5.0 mm. Filament color: 9A. Anther shape: Oval, bilobed. Anther length: Approximately 0.5 mm. Anther color: 21B. Pollen amount: Abundant. Pollen color: Closest to 23A. Gynoecium: Pistil quantity: One per flower. Pistil length: Approximately 1.1 cm. Stigma shape: Five branched. Stigma length: Approximately 4.0 mm. Stigma color: 12A. Style length: Approximately 5.0 mm. Style color: 12A. Ovary diameter: Approximately 2.0 mm. Ovary color: N144D.

Seed and fruit production: Neither seed nor fruit production has been observed.

Disease and pest resistance: Resistance to pathogens and pests common to *Portulaca* has not been observed.

What is claimed is:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Portulaca* plant named ‘Balrioscar’, substantially as herein shown and described.

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FIG. 1



FIG. 2