



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

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(54) **CATHARANTHUS PLANT NAMED**  
**‘KITAJIMA ANGEL TUTU’**

(50) Latin Name: *Catharanthus*×*hybrida*  
Varietal Denomination: **KITAJIMA ANGEL**  
**TUTU**

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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new cultivar of *Catharanthus* named ‘KITAJIMA ANGEL  
TUTU’ that is characterized by sterility, upright habit, dark-  
green foliage, pale green stems, and profuse pale pink  
flowers. In combination these traits set ‘KITAJIMA ANGEL  
TUTU’ apart from all other existing varieties of *Catharan-*  
*thus* known to the inventor.

**2 Drawing Sheets**

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Genus: *Catharanthus*. Species:×*hybrida*.  
Denomination: ‘KITAJIMA ANGEL TUTU’.

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar  
of Madagascar periwinkle that is grown for use as a patio  
plant, container plant, or bedding plant for the landscape.  
The new cultivar is known botanically as *Catharanthus*×  
*hybrida* and will be referred to hereinafter by the cultivar  
name ‘KITAJIMA ANGEL TUTU’.

‘KITAJIMA ANGEL TUTU’ is characterized, by sterility,  
upright habit, dark-green foliage, pale green stems, and  
profuse pale pink flowers. The cultural requirements are  
well-drained soil, shade, and full sun in cooler climates, as  
well as little to moderate water. ‘KITAJIMA ANGEL  
TUTU’ exhibits no pest or disease problems known to the  
inventor and is tender to cold temperatures but will tolerate  
heat.

The new *Catharanthus* cultivar ‘KITAJIMA ANGEL  
TUTU’ is a hybrid that resulted from the inter-specific  
cross-pollination of an unnamed and unreleased plant of the  
species *Catharanthus pacifica* and an unnamed and unre-  
leased plant of the species *Catharanthus roseus*. The seeds  
that resulted from the cross-pollination were sown, produc-  
ing a crop of seedlings. In 2000 the inventor selected from  
the seedlings, the single hybrid ‘KITAJIMA ANGEL TUTU’  
described herein. The selection took place in a cultivated  
area of Sakurai, Nara, Japan. Selection was based on the  
distinguishing characteristics of flower color, sterility, and  
tepal margin.

The female parent is a single unnamed plant of the species  
*Catharanthus pacifica* (unpatented) and the male parent  
plant is a single unnamed plant of the species *Catharanthus*  
*roseus* (unpatented). The closest comparison plant is the  
female parent *Catharanthus pacifica*. ‘KITAJIMA ANGEL  
TUTU’ is distinguishable from the comparison plant by  
sterility, and sinuate tepal margin. ‘KITAJIMA ANGEL  
TUTU’ is distinguishable from the male parent *Catharan-*

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*thus roseus* by sinuate tepal margin, and pale pink flowers  
that are lightest in color, at the tepal edges.

The first asexual propagation of ‘KITAJIMA ANGLE  
TUTU’ was conducted by the inventor in 2000 in a culti-  
vated area of Sakurai, Nara, Japan. The method of propa-  
gation used was vegetative cuttings. Since that time, under  
careful observation, the distinguishing characteristics have  
been determined stable, uniform and true to type in succes-  
sive generations.

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

The following represent the distinguishing characteristics  
of the new *Catharanthus* cultivar ‘KITAJIMA ANGEL  
TUTU’. In combination these traits set ‘KITAJIMA ANGEL  
TUTU’ apart from all other existing varieties of *Catharan-*  
*thus* known to the inventor. ‘KITAJIMA ANGEL TUTU’ has  
not been tested under all possible conditions and phenotypic  
differences may be observed with variations in  
environmental, climatic, and cultural conditions, however,  
without any variance in genotype.

1. *Catharanthus* ‘KITAJIMA ANGEL TUTU’ is sterile.
2. *Catharanthus* ‘KITAJIMA ANGEL TUTU’ is ever-  
green.
3. *Catharanthus* ‘KITAJIMA ANGEL TUTU’ exhibits  
profuse pale pink flowers that are lightest in color at the  
tepal edges.
4. *Catharanthus* ‘KITAJIMA ANGEL TUTU’ flowers  
exhibit a combination of irregular lobules and weakly  
sinuate margin on each individual tepal.
5. *Catharanthus* ‘KITAJIMA ANGEL TUTU’ exhibits an  
upright habit.
6. *Catharanthus* ‘KITAJIMA ANGLE TUTU’ exhibits  
pale green stems and dark-green foliage.
7. *Catharanthus* ‘KITAJIMA ANGEL TUTU’ is 35 cm. in  
height and 35 cm. in width in an 18 cm. container.
8. The cultural requirements of *Catharanthus* ‘KITA-  
JIMA ANGEL TUTU’ are well-drained soil, shade, to  
full sun in cooler climates, and little to moderate water.

9. *Catharanthus* 'KITAJIMA ANGEL TUTU' is an annual plant suitable for use as a patio plant, container plant or bedding plant for the landscape, or as a perennial in USDA hardiness zone 10 and warmer.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying color drawings labeled as FIG. 1 and FIG. 2, illustrate the overall appearance of the new *Catharanthus* cultivar 'KITAJIMA ANGEL TUTU', showing the colors as true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in colored reproductions of this type. Colors in the drawings may differ from the color values cited in the detailed botanical description, which accurately describe the actual colors of the new variety 'KITAJIMA ANGEL TUTU'. Plants in the drawings were grown under greenhouse conditions in Sakurai, Nara, Japan. Rooted vegetative cuttings were planted in 9 cm. containers in October 2003 and were transplanted to 18 cm. containers in January 2004. The plants were kept in a greenhouse and pinched back several times before the drawings were made, in April 2004.

The drawing labeled FIG. 1 illustrates the entire plant in bloom from a side perspective.

The drawing labeled FIG. 2 illustrates a close-up view of the flowers.

The plants in both drawings are 7-months-old.

Both drawings were made using conventional techniques and although foliage colors may appear different from actual colors due to light reflectance, they are as accurate as possible by conventional photography.

#### BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANT

The following is a detailed description of the *Catharanthus* cultivar named 'KITAJIMA ANGEL TUTU'. Data was collected in Arroyo Grande, Calif. from plants that were grown indoors under greenhouse conditions. The data was collected from 9-month-old plants in 2-liter containers. Color determinations are in accordance with the 2001 edition of The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, except where general color terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used. The growing requirements are similar to the species.

Botanical classification: *Catharanthus*×*hybrida* 'KITAJIMA ANGEL TUTU'.

Species:×*hybrida*.

Denomination: 'KITAJIMA ANGEL TUTU'.

Commercial classification: Annual or perennial in USDA hardiness zone 10 and warmer.

Common name: Madagascar periwinkle; also erroneously as Vinca.

Uses: Patio plant, container plant, or bedding plant for the landscape.

Container size: Suggested size is 18-centimeter container.

Cultural requirements: Shade, full sun in cooler climates, any well-drained soil, and little to moderate water.

Parentage: 'KITAJIMA ANGEL TUTU' is a hybrid that resulted from the cross-pollination of the following parent plants:

*Seed parent*.—A plant of the species *Catharanthus pacifica*.

*Pollen parent*.—A plant of the species *Catharanthus roseus*.

Plant description:

*Blooming seasons*.—Summer and fall.

*Vigor*.—Vigorous.

*Plant habit*.—Upright habit.

*Height* (2-liter container).—36 cm. in height.

*Width* (2-liter container).—41 cm. in width.

*Hardiness*.—USDA Zone 10.

*Propagation*.—Propagation is accomplished using vegetative cuttings.

*Root system*.—Fibrous.

*Time to initiate rooting*.—3 weeks are needed to produce roots on the initial cuttings.

*Temperature to initiate rooting*.—The ideal air temperature for rooting under greenhouse conditions is 20° Centigrade.

*Crop time*.—7 months are needed to produce a commercial 18 cm. container plant from an initial cutting.

*Seasonal interest*.—Pale pink flowers in summer and fall.

Stem:

*Stem diameter*.—25 cm. in diameter.

*Stem length*.—21 cm. in length.

*Shape*.—Cylindrical.

*Surface*.—Fluted.

*Pubescence*.—None observed.

*Stem color*.—N144C.

*Internodes*.—1.50 cm. between nodes.

Foliage:

*Type*.—Evergreen.

*Leaf arrangement*.—Leaves are arranged in a combination of opposite and whorled on an individual stem.

*Leaf division*.—Simple.

*Leaf shape*.—Broadly elliptic.

*Leaf base*.—Obtuse.

*Leaf apex*.—Acute.

*Leaf venation*.—Pinnate.

*Vein color* (abaxial surfaces).—145A.

*Vein color* (adaxial surfaces).—145A.

*Leaf surfaces* (adaxial).—Puberulent.

*Leaf surfaces* (abaxial).—Puberulent.

*Leaf margins*.—Entire.

*Leaf attachment*.—Petiolate.

*Petiole dimensions*.—50 cm. in length and 2.75 mm. in width.

*Petiole shape*.—Flattened oval.

*Petiole color*.—145A.

*Petiole surface*.—Puberulent.

*Leaf color* (adaxial surfaces).—Colors 137A and 145A are individually present on adaxial surfaces.

*Leaf color* (abaxial surfaces).—Colors 138A and 145A are individually present on abaxial surfaces.

*Leaf appearance* (abaxial surfaces).—Satin.

*Leaf appearance* (adaxial surfaces).—Semi-gloss.

*Leaf length*.—Leaves range from 3.75 cm. to 5 cm in length.

*Leaf width*.—Leaves range from 2 cm. to 2.50 cm. in width.

*Average number of leaves per stem*.—An average of 32 leaves per stem.

*Foliar fragrance*.—Pungent scent.

Flower:

*Inflorescence*.—Solitary flower.

*Petals*.—Apetalous.

*Tepals*.—Five in number.

*Fused or unfused*.—Tepals are unfused.

*Tepal margin*.—Each individual tepal exhibits a combination of irregular lobules and weakly sinuate margin.

*Tepal apex*.—Closest to obcordate.

*Tepal base*.—Truncate.

*Tepal surfaces (adaxial surfaces)*.—Glabrous.

*Tepal surfaces (abaxial surfaces)*.—Glabrous.

*Tepal shape*.—Closest to rhombic.

*Tepal dimensions*.—1.50 cm. in width and 1.50 cm. in length.

*Tepal color when flower is fully opened (adaxial surfaces)*.—Individual colors 69D, 75B and 75C are present on an individual tepal.

*Tepal color when flower is fully opened (abaxial surface)*.—69D.

*Tepal color when flower is opening (abaxial and adaxial surfaces)*.—Individual colors 69D and 145D are present on an individual tepal.

*Aspect*.—Facing upward.

*Flower shape*.—Rotate.

*Flower color when fully opened (adaxial surface)*.—Individual colors 69D, 75B and 75C are present on an individual flower.

*Flower color when fully opened (abaxial surface)*.—69D.

*Flower color when opening (abaxial and adaxial surfaces)*.—Individual colors 69D and 145D are present on an individual flower.

*Color of peduncle*.—N144C.

*Peduncle length*.—Individual peduncles on an individual plant range from 2–3 cm. in length.

*Peduncle diameter*.—2 mm. in diameter.

*Peduncle shape*.—Cylindrical.

*Persistent or self-cleaning*.—Persistent.

*Dimensions of flower*.—1.75 cm. in depth and 3.50 cm. in diameter.

*Quantity of flowers (18 cm. container)*.—Quantity ranges from 50–60 individual flowers on an individual commercial container plant.

*Bud color*.—145C.

*Bud apex*.—Truncate.

*Bud surface*.—Mostly glabrous with only a few hairs.

*Bud shape*.—Quadrate.

*Bud dimensions*.—0.75 cm. in length and 0.25 cm. in width.

*Sepals*.—None observed.

*Fragrance*.—None observed.

Reproductive organs:

*Stamens*.—None observed.

*Anthers*.—None observed.

*Stigma*.—None observed.

*Style*.—None observed.

*Ovary position*.—Inferior.

*Ovary shape*.—Closest to elongated oval in shape.

*Ovary dimensions*.—6 mm. in height and 3 mm. in width.

*Ovary color*.—N144C.

Seed: ‘KITAJIMA ANGEL TUTU’ is sterile and does not produce seed.

Disease and pest susceptibility: None known to the inventor.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct variety of *Catharanthus* plant named ‘KITAJIMA ANGEL TUTU’ as described and illustrated.

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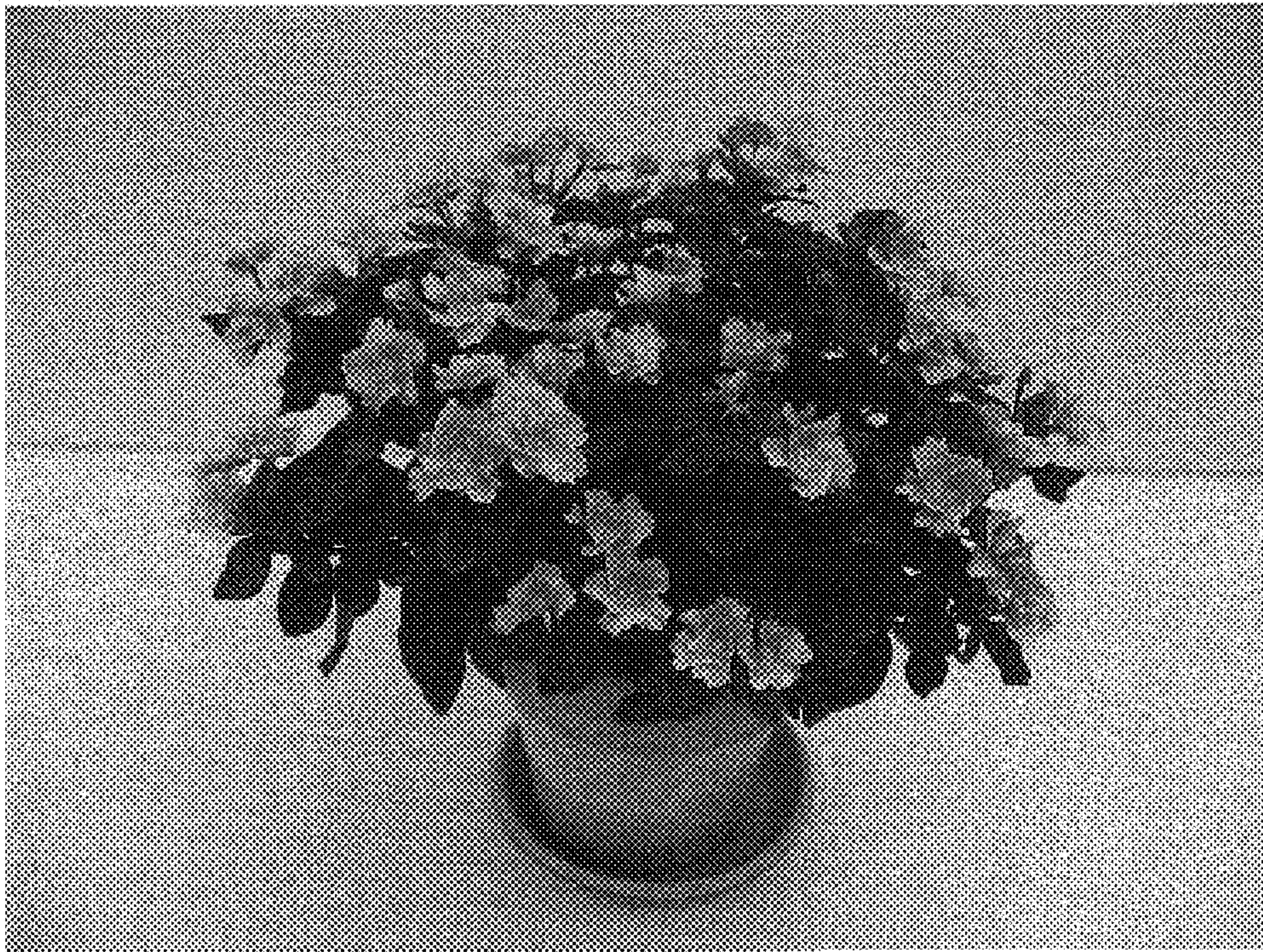


FIG. 1

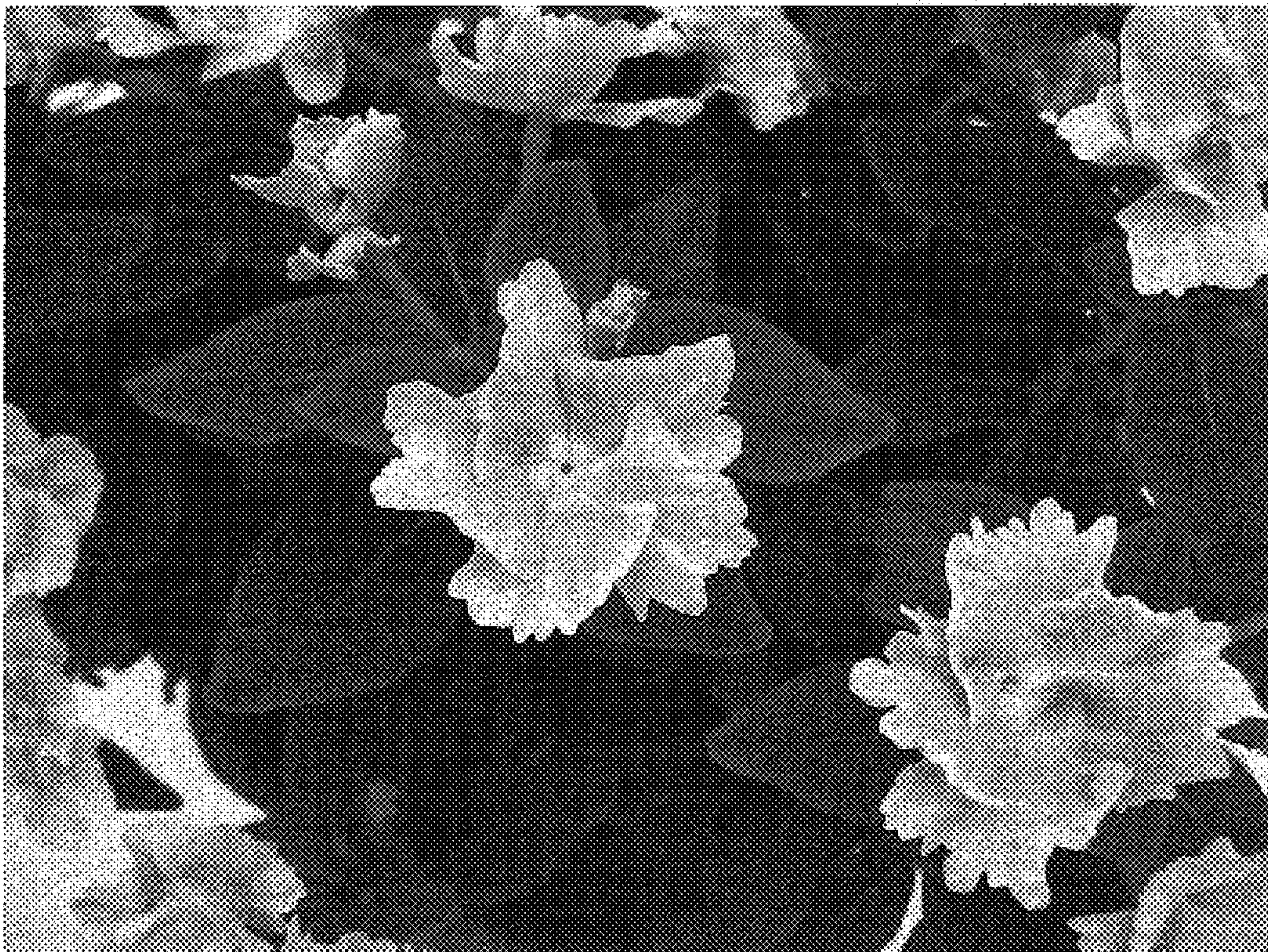


FIG. 2