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Klemm

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(54) **OSTEOSPERMUM PLANT NAMED**
'KLEOE05116'

(50) Latin Name: ***Osteospermum ecklonis***
Varietal Denomination: **KLEOE05116**

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patent is extended or adjusted under 35
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(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./360**
(58) **Field of Classification Search** **Plt./360**
See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Osteospermum* plant named
'KLEOE05116', characterized by its upright and compact
plant habit; freely branching growth habit; early and freely
flowering habit; and daisy-type inflorescences with pale
pink-colored ray florets.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Botanical designation: *Osteospermum ecklonis*.
Cultivar denomination: 'KLEOE05116'.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of *Osteospermum* plant, botanically known as *Osteosper-*
mum ecklonis, and hereinafter referred to by the name
'KLEOE05116'.

The new *Osteospermum* is a product of a planned breed-
ing program conducted by the Inventor in Stuttgart, Ger-
many. The objective of the program is to create and develop
new compact *Osteospermum* cultivars with freely branching
and uniformly mounded plant habit, early and freely flow-
ering habit and attractive inflorescence coloration.

The new *Osteospermum* originated from an open-
pollination by the Inventor in 2001 of an unnamed propri-
etary selection of *Osteospermum ecklonis*, not patented, as
the female, or seed, parent with an unknown selection of
Osteospermum ecklonis as the male, or pollen, parent. The
new *Osteospermum* was discovered and selected by the
Inventor as a single flowering plant within the progeny of the
stated open-pollination in a controlled environment in
Stuttgart, Germany in April, 2002.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Osteospermum* by ter-
minal cuttings in a controlled environment in Stuttgart,
Germany since May, 2002, has shown that the unique
features of this new *Osteospermum* are stable and repro-
duced true to type in successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The cultivar KLEOE05116 has not been observed under
all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may
vary somewhat with variations in environment such as
temperature, daylength and light intensity, without,
however, any variance in genotype.

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and
are determined to be the unique characteristics of
'KLEOE05116'. These characteristics in combination dis-
tinguish 'KLEOE05116' as a new and distinct cultivar of
Osteospermum.

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1. Upright and compact plant habit.
2. Freely branching growth habit.
3. Early and freely flowering habit.

4. Daisy-type inflorescences with light pink to white-
colored ray florets.

In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Stuttgart,
Germany, plants of the new *Osteospermum* differ from
plants of the female parent selection in the following char-
acteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Osteospermum* are more compact and
uniform than plants of the female parent selection.
2. Plants of the new *Osteospermum* and the female parent
selection differ in ray floret coloration.

Plants of the new *Osteospermum* can be compared to
plants of the *Osteospermum* cultivar FP Ice, not patented. In
side-by-side comparisons conducted in Stuttgart, Germany,
plants of the new *Osteospermum* differed from plants of the
cultivar FP Ice in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Osteospermum* were shorter than
plants of the cultivar FP Ice.
2. Plants of the new *Osteospermum* were more freely
branching than plants of the cultivar FP Ice.
3. Inflorescences of plants of the new *Osteospermum* had
more ray florets than inflorescences of plants of the
cultivar FP Ice.
4. Plants of the new *Osteospermum* and the cultivar FP Ice
differed in ray floret coloration as plants of the cultivar
FP Ice had blue white-colored ray florets.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH

The accompanying photograph illustrates the overall
appearance of the new *Osteospermum*. This photograph
shows the colors as true as it is reasonably possible to obtain
in colored reproductions of this type. Colors in the photo-
graph may differ slightly from the color values cited in the
detailed botanical description which accurately describe the
colors of the new *Osteospermum*. The photograph comprises
a close-up view of a typical inflorescence of
'KLEOE05116'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

In the following description, color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 1995 Edition, except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used. The aforementioned photograph, following observations and measurements describe plants grown in Stuttgart, Germany during the summer in an outdoor nursery and under conditions and practices which approximate those generally used in commercial *Osteospermum* production. During the production of the plants, day temperatures ranged from 15° C. to 20° C. and night ranged from 10° C. to 15° C. Measurements and numerical values represent averages for typical flowering plants. Plants were about six months old when the photograph and description were taken.

Botanical classification: *Osteospermum ecklonis* cultivar KLEOE05116.

Parentage:

Female, or seed, parent.—Unnamed proprietary selection of *Osteospermum ecklonis*, not patented.

Male, or pollen, parent.—Unknown selection of *Osteospermum ecklonis*, not patented.

Propagation:

Type.—Terminal vegetative cuttings.

Time to initiate roots, summer.—About ten days at 25° C.

Time to initiate roots, winter.—About two weeks at 18° C. to 20° C.

Time to produce a rooted cutting, summer.—About three to four weeks at 25° C.

Time to produce a rooted cutting, winter.—About four to five weeks at 18° C. to 20° C.

Root description.—Fibrous.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching; dense.

Plant description:

Plant form/growth habit.—Upright and compact plant habit. Inflorescences positioned well above the foliar plane. Moderately vigorous growth habit.

Plant height.—About 44 cm.

Plant diameter.—About 76 cm.

Lateral branches.—Quantity per plant: Freely branching, about seven lateral branches per plant. Length: About 40 cm. Diameter: About 1 cm. Internode length: About 1 cm. Strength: Strong. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: 144B flushed with 178A.

Foliage description.—Arrangement: Alternate, simple. Length: About 8 cm. Width: About 3.4 cm. Shape: Obovate. Apex: Acute. Base: Acute. Margin: Crenate. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous; leathery. Venation pattern: Pinnate. Color: Developing foliage, upper and lower surfaces: 144A. Fully expanded foliage, upper surface: 146A; venation, 144B. Fully expanded foliage, lower surface: 147B; venation, 144B.

Inflorescence description:

Appearance.—Daisy-type inflorescence form with obovate-shaped ray florets. Inflorescences positioned above the foliage, arising from leaf axils. Disc and ray florets developing acropetally on a capitulum.

Inflorescences face mostly upright. Freely flowering habit; about 90 inflorescences develop over time per plant. Inflorescences persistent. Inflorescences not fragrant.

Flowering response.—In Germany, plants of the new *Osteospermum* flower recurrently to continuously from spring to autumn. Early flowering habit, plants begin flowering about 10 to 16 weeks after planting. Inflorescences last about five to ten days on the plant.

Inflorescence bud.—Height: About 1 cm. Diameter: About 1 cm. Shape: Ovate. Color: 144A to 144B.

Inflorescence size.—Diameter: About 6.5 cm. Depth (height): About 2 cm. Disc diameter: About 1.3 cm. Receptacle diameter: About 1.3 cm. Receptacle height: About 1 cm.

Ray florets.—Shape: Obovate. Length: About 3 cm. Width: About 9 mm. Apex: Obtuse. Base: Acute. Margin: Entire. Texture: Smooth, glabrous; velvety. Orientation: Upright. Number of ray florets per inflorescence: About 23 in a single whorl. Color: When opening, upper surface: 69D. When opening, lower surface: 69D and 75B. Fully opened, upper surface: 69D; towards the base, 84B. Fully opened, lower surface: 69D and 84A.

Disc florets.—Shape: Tubular; apex dentate, five-pointed. Length: About 8 mm. Diameter, apex: About 3 mm. Diameter, base: About 1 mm. Number of disc florets per inflorescence: About 36 to 63. Color: Immature: 93C. Mature: Apex: 93C. Mid-section: 93D. Base: 130D.

Phyllaries.—Quantity per inflorescence: About 15 to 23. Length: About 1.1 cm. Width: About 1.5 mm. Shape: Lanceolate. Apex: Acuminate. Base: Truncate. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper surface: Smooth, glabrous. Texture, lower surface: Pubescent, rough. Color, upper and lower surfaces: 146D.

Peduncles.—Length: About 14 cm to 15 cm. Diameter: About 2 mm to 5 mm. Strength: Strong. Aspect: Mostly upright. Texture: Pubescent; rough. Color: 146C.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium: Present on disc florets only. Anther shape: Ovate. Anther length: About 1 mm. Anther color: 103A. Pollen amount: Abundant. Pollen color: 23A. Gynoecium: Present on both ray and disc florets. Pistil length: About 4 mm. Stigma shape: Lanceolate. Stigma color: Close to 143D. Style length: About 2 mm. Style color: Close to 83A.

Seeds.—Length: About 7 mm. Diameter: About 4 mm. Color: 200A.

Disease/pest resistance: Plants of the new *Osteospermum* have not been shown to be resistant to pathogens and pests common to *Osteospermums*.

Temperature tolerance: Plants of the new *Osteospermum* have been observed to tolerate temperatures ranging from about -5° C. to about 35° C.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct *Osteospermum* plant named 'KLEOE05116' as illustrated and described.

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