

(12) **United States Plant Patent**
Ishihara et al.

(10) **Patent No.:** **US PP18,594 P2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Mar. 11, 2008**

(54) **PETUNIA PLANT NAMED**
‘SUNSURFMICSHIPHO’

(50) Latin Name: *Petunia*×*hybrida*
Varietal Denomination: **Sunsurfmicshipho**

(75) Inventors: **Takuro Ishihara**, Tokyo (JP); **Yasuko**
Isobe, Shiga (JP); **Kazunari Iwaki**,
Shiga (JP); **Takeshi Kanaya**, Shiga (JP)

(73) Assignee: **Suntory Flowers Ltd.**, Tokyo (JP)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this
patent is extended or adjusted under 35
U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **11/583,642**

(22) Filed: **Oct. 19, 2006**

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

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./356**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** Plt./356
See application file for complete search history.

Primary Examiner—Kent Bell

Assistant Examiner—S. B. McCormick-Ewoldt

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—C. A. Whealy

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Petunia* plant named
‘Sunsurfmicshipho’, characterized by its outwardly spread-
ing to decumbent plant habit; vigorous growth habit; freely
branching and flowering plant habit; long flowering period;
and medium-sized light pink-colored flowers.

1 Drawing Sheet

1

Botanical designation: *Petunia*×*hybrida*.
Cultivar denomination: ‘Sunsurfmicshipho’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of *Petunia*, botanically known as *Petunia*×*hybrida* and here-
inafter referred to by the name ‘Sunsurfmicshipho’.

The new *Petunia* is a product of a planned breeding
program conducted by the Inventors in Shiga, Japan. The
objective of the breeding program is to create new *Petunia*
cultivars with attractive foliage and flower coloration.

The new *Petunia* originated from a cross-pollination
made by the Inventors in June, 2002 in Shiga, Japan of the
Petunia×*hybrida* cultivar Fantasy Pink, not patented, as the
female, or seed, parent with a proprietary selection of
Petunia×*hybrida* identified as code number P01-531, not
patented, as the male, or pollen, parent. The new *Petunia*
was discovered and selected by the Inventors as a single
flowering plant within the progeny of the stated cross-
pollination in a controlled environment in Shiga, Japan.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Petunia* by terminal
cuttings in a controlled environment in Shiga, Japan since
September, 2004, has shown that the unique features of this
new *Petunia* are stable and reproduced true to type in
successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The cultivar Sunsurfmicshipho has not been observed
under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype
may vary somewhat with variations in environment and
cultural practices 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 ‘Sunsur-
fmicshipho’. These characteristics in combination distin-
guish ‘Sunsurfmicshipho’ as a new and distinct cultivar of
Petunia:

1. Outwardly spreading to decumbent plant habit.
2. Vigorous growth habit.

2

3. Freely branching and flowering plant habit.
4. Long flowering period.
5. Medium-sized light pink-colored flowers.

Plants of the new *Petunia* can be compared to plants of the
female parent, the cultivar Fantasy Pink. Plants of the new
Petunia differ from plants of the cultivar Fantasy Pink in the
following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Petunia* are more decumbent than and
not as upright as plants of the cultivar Fantasy Pink.
2. Plants of the new *Petunia* have larger flowers than
plants of the cultivar Fantasy Pink.
3. Plants of the new *Petunia* and the cultivar Fantasy Pink
differ in flower color.

Plants of the new *Petunia* can be compared to plants of the
male parent selection. Plants of the new *Petunia* differ from
plants of the male parent selection in the following charac-
teristics:

1. Plants of the new *Petunia* are more outwardly spread-
ing than plants of the male parent selection.
2. Plants of the new *Petunia* have larger flowers than
plants of the male parent selection.

Plants of the new *Petunia* can also be compared to plants
of the cultivar Suncopablue, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No.
16,355. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Shiga,
Japan, plants of the new *Petunia* and the cultivar Suncop-
ablue differed in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Petunia* were shorter and broader than
plants of the cultivar Suncopablue.
2. Plants of the new *Petunia* and the cultivar Suncopablue
differed in flower color as plants of the cultivar Sun-
copablue had violet-colored flowers.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying colored photographs illustrate the
overall appearance of the new *Petunia*, showing the colors
as true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in colored
reproductions of this type. Colors in the photographs may
differ slightly from the color values cited in the detailed

botanical description which accurately describe the colors of the new *Petunia*.

The photograph at the top of the sheet comprises a top perspective view of a typical flowering plant of 'Sunsurfmicshipho' grown in a container.

The photograph at the bottom of the sheet comprises a close-up of a typical flower of 'Sunsurfmicshipho'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The photographs and following observations, measurements and values describe plants grown in Shiga, Japan, under commercial practice during the spring and early summer in an outdoor nursery day temperatures averaging 23° C. and night temperatures averaging 14° C. Plants were grown for about four months with one plant per 13.5-cm container and pinched one time. In the following description, color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 2001 Edition, except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

Botanical classification: *Petunia*×*hybrida* cultivar Sunsurfmicshipho.

Parentage:

Female, or seed, parent.—*Petunia*×*hybrida* cultivar Fantasy Pink, not patented.

Male, or pollen, parent.—Proprietary selection of *Petunia*×*hybrida* identified as code number P01-531, not patented.

Propagation:

Type.—By terminal cuttings.

Time to initiate roots.—About one week at temperatures of 20° C. to 25° C.

Time to produce a rooted young plant.—About three weeks at temperatures of 20° C. to 25° C.

Root description.—Fine, fibrous; light brown in color.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching.

Plant description:

Plant and growth habit.—Outwardly spreading to decumbent plant habit. Freely branching with lateral branches potentially developing at every node; pinching enhances lateral branch development. Vigorous growth habit.

Plant height.—About 10.2 cm.

Plant diameter.—About 37 cm.

Lateral branch description:

Length.—About 18.4 cm.

Diameter.—About 1.6 mm.

Internode length.—About 1.1 cm.

Strength.—Strong.

Aspect.—Initially upright to decumbent.

Texture.—Pubescent.

Color.—144A.

Foliage description:

Arrangement.—Before flowering, alternate, simple; after flowering, opposite, simple.

Length.—About 3.3 cm.

Width.—About 1.5 cm.

Shape.—Ovate.

Apex.—Acute.

Base.—Rounded.

Margin.—Entire.

Texture, upper and lower surfaces.—Pubescent; viscid.

Venation pattern.—Pinnate; reticulate.

Color.—Developing and fully expanded foliage, upper surface: 137A; venation, 145B. Developing and fully

expanded foliage, lower surface: 146B; venation, 145B.

Petiole.—Length: About 1.3 cm. Diameter: About 0.8 mm. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Pubescent. Color, upper and lower surfaces: 145B.

Flower description:

Flower arrangement and habit.—Single salverform flowers arising from leaf axils. Freely flowering habit with usually about 31 flowers developing per plant. Flowers not persistent. Flowers face upright or outwardly. Flowers not fragrant.

Natural flowering season.—Plants of the new *Petunia* initiate and develop flowers about two to three weeks after planting. Long flowering period; flowering commences naturally during the spring and plants flower continuously throughout the summer until the fall in Japan.

Flower longevity.—Individual flowers last about five days on the plant.

Flower diameter.—About 4.3 cm.

Flower length (depth).—About 2.9 cm.

Throat diameter.—About 8.5 mm.

Tube diameter.—About 2.8 mm.

Flower bud.—Shape: Cylindrical. Length: About 2.8 cm. Diameter: About 4.1 mm. Color: 77D.

Corolla.—Arrangement: Five petals fused at the base and opening into a flared trumpet. Petal length from throat: About 1.7 cm. Petal width: About 1.7 cm. Petal shape: Broadly obovate. Petal apex: Mucronate. Petal margin: Entire; undulate. Petal texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous; satiny. Tube texture: Pubescent.

Color.—Petal, when opening and fully opened, upper surface: 75C. Petal, when opening and fully opened, lower surface: 69B. Throat: 155C; venation, 199A. Tube: 155C; venation, 145B.

Calyx.—Arrangement: One star-shaped calyx tube with five sepals fused at the base per flower. Sepal length: About 1.1 cm. Sepal width: About 1.5 mm. Sepal shape: Lanceolate. Sepal apex: Acute. Sepal margin: Entire. Sepal texture, upper and lower surfaces: Pubescent. Color, upper surface: 137B. Color, lower surface: 137C.

Peduncles.—Length: About 2 cm. Diameter: About 0.9 mm. Angle: About 45° from vertical. Strength: Strong. Texture: Pubescent; viscid. Color: 144C.

Reproductive organs.—Stamens: Quantity/arrangement: Five per flower. Anther shape: Ellipsoidal. Anther size: About 1 mm by 1.5 mm. Anther color: 155B. Pollen amount: Moderate. Pollen color: 155D.

Pistils.—Quantity: One per flower. Pistil length: About 2 cm. Style color: 144C. Stigma shape: Transversely ellipsoidal. Stigma color: 143A. Ovary color: 144A.

Seed/fruit.—Seed and fruit development have not been observed on plants of the new *Petunia*.

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

Pathogen/pest resistance: Plants of the new *Petunia* have not been observed to be resistant to pests and pathogens common to *Petunia*.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct *Petunia* plant named 'Sunsurfmicshipho' as illustrated and described.

* * * * *

