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Klemm

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(54) ***OSTEOSPERMUM* PLANT NAMED**
‘KLEOE05118’

(50) Latin Name: ***Osteospermum ecklonis***
Varietal Denomination: **KLEOE05118**

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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
‘KLEOE05118’, characterized by its upright and compact
plant habit; freely branching growth habit; early and freely
flowering habit; and large daisy-type inflorescences with
light orange-colored ray florets.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Botanical designation: *Osteospermum ecklonis*.
Cultivar denomination: ‘KLEOE05118’.

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
‘KLEOE05118’.

The new *Osteospermum* is a naturally-occurring branch
mutation of an unnamed proprietary selection of *Osteosper-*
mum ecklonis, not patented. The new *Osteospermum* was
discovered and selected by the Inventor as a single flowering
plant within a population of plants of the parent selection in
a controlled environment in Encinitas, Calif. in April, 2003.
The selection of this plant was based on its attractive ray
floret coloration.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Osteospermum* by ter-
minal cuttings in a controlled environment in Stuttgart,
Germany since May, 2003, 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 KLEOE 5118 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 ‘KLEOE
5118’. These characteristics in combination distinguish
‘KLEOE05118’ as a new and distinct cultivar of *Osteosper-*
mum:

1. Upright and compact plant habit.
2. Freely branching growth habit.
3. Early and freely flowering habit.
4. Large daisy-type inflorescences with light orange-
colored ray florets.

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In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Stuttgart,
Germany, plants of the new *Osteospermum* differ primarily
from plants of the parent selection in ray floret color.

Plants of the new *Osteospermum* can be compared to
plants of the *Osteospermum* cultivar KLEOE05119, dis-
closed in a U.S. Plant patent application Ser. No. 11/583,
664, filed concurrently. In side-by-side comparisons con-
ducted in Stuttgart, Germany, plants of the new
Osteospermum differed primarily from plants of the cultivar
KLEOE05119 in ray floret color as plants of the cultivar
KLEOE05119 had yellow-colored ray florets. In addition,
plants of the new *Osteospermum* had shorter peduncles and
were not as freely flowering as plants of the cultivar
KLEOE05119.

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
‘KLEOE05118’.

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 signifi-
cance 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
three months old when the photograph and description were
taken.

Botanical classification: *Osteospermum ecklonis* cultivar KLEOE05118.

Parentage: Naturally-occurring branch mutation of an unnamed proprietary 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 13 cm.

Plant diameter.—About 30 cm.

Lateral branches.—Quantity per plant: Freely branching, about three to four lateral branches per plant. Length: About 12 cm to 15 cm. Diameter: About 1 cm. Internode length: About 5 mm to 10 mm. Strength: Strong. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: 143B to 144A flushed with 166A.

Foliage description.—Arrangement: Alternate, simple. Length: About 7 cm. Width: About 3.5 cm. Shape: Obovate. Apex: Acute. Base: Acute. Margin: Entire to crenate. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous; leathery. Venation pattern: Pinnate. Color: Developing foliage, upper and lower surfaces: 147B. Fully expanded foliage, upper surface: 147A; venation, 145A. Fully expanded foliage, lower surface: 146A; venation, 145A.

Inflorescence description:

Appearance.—Daisy-type inflorescence form with elongated oblong-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 25 inflorescences develop over time per plant. Inflorescences persistent. Inflorescences not fragrant.

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

Inflorescence bud.—Height: About 1.2 cm. Diameter: About 7 mm. Shape: Ovate. Color: 145A to 145B.

Inflorescence size.—Diameter: About 6 cm. Depth (height): About 2 cm. Disc diameter: About 8 mm. Receptacle diameter: About 8 mm. Receptacle height: About 7 mm.

Ray florets.—Shape: Elongate oblong. Length: About 3 cm. Width: About 4 mm. Apex: Acute to emarginate. Base: Acute. Margin: Entire. Texture: Smooth, glabrous; velvety. Orientation: Upright to outwardly. Number of ray florets per inflorescence: About 13 to 15 in a single whorl. Color: When opening, upper surface: 25B; towards the base, 93B. When opening, lower surface: 25A. Fully opened, upper surface: 25C. Fully opened, lower surface: 25B.

Disc florets.—Shape: Tubular; apex dentate, five-pointed. Length: About 6 mm. Diameter, apex: About 2 mm. Diameter, base: About 1 mm. Number of disc florets per inflorescence: About 30. Color: Immature: 79A. Mature: Apex: 79A. Mid-section: 83C. Base: 149D.

Phyllaries.—Quantity per inflorescence: About 13 to 16. Length: About 1.2 cm. Width: About 2 mm. Shape: Lanceolate. Apex: Acuminate. Base: Truncate. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper surface: Smooth, glabrous. Texture, lower surface: Pubescent, rough. Color, upper surface: 146B. Color, lower surface: 146C.

Peduncles.—Length: About 4 cm to 8 cm. Diameter: About 3 mm. Strength: Strong. Aspect: Mostly upright. Texture: Smooth, glabrous; rough. Color: 143C.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium: Present on disc florets only. Anther shape: Lanceolate. Anther length: About 2 mm. Anther color: 79A. 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 6 mm to 8 mm. Diameter: About 4 mm to 6 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 0° C. to about 35° C.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct *Osteospermum* plant named 'KLEOE05118' as illustrated and described.

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