



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

(10) **Patent No.:** **US PP18,685 P2**  
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Apr. 1, 2008**

(54) **HYPERICUM PLANT NAMED ‘VERICECLA’**

(50) Latin Name: *Hypericum androsaemum*  
Varietal Denomination: **Vericecla**

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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 0 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **11/637,852**

(22) Filed: **Dec. 12, 2006**

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

(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **Plt./226**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** ..... **Plt./226**  
See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Hypericum* plant named  
‘Vericecla’, characterized by its upright plant habit; durable  
dark green-colored leaves; freely flowering habit; large pale  
yellow-colored fruits; and good postproduction longevity.

**2 Drawing Sheets**

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Botanical designation: *Hypericum androsaemum*.  
Cultivar denomination: ‘Vericecla’.

#### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar  
of *Hypericum*, botanically known as *Hypericum androsae-*  
*mum* and hereinafter referred to by the name ‘Vericecla’.

The new *Hypericum* is a product of a planned breeding  
program conducted by the Inventor in Wieringerwerf, The  
Netherlands. The objective of the breeding program is to  
create new cut flower *Hypericum* cultivars with numerous  
attractive fruit coloration.

The new *Hypericum* originated from a cross-pollination  
made by the Inventor in August, 2001 in Wieringerwerf, The  
Netherlands of a proprietary selection of *Hypericum andro-*  
*saemum* identified as code number 121 062, not patented, as  
the female, or seed parent with a proprietary selection of  
*Hypericum androsaemum* identified as code number 222  
258, not patented, as the male, or pollen, parent. The new  
*Hypericum* was discovered and selected by the Inventor as  
a single flowering plant within the progeny of the stated  
cross-pollination in a controlled environment in  
Wieringerwerf, The Netherlands in July, 2003.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by vegetative  
cuttings in Wieringerwerf, The Netherlands, since August,  
2003, has shown that the unique features of this new  
*Hypericum* are stable and reproduced true to type in suc-  
cessive generations.

#### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Plants of the cultivar Vericecla have not been observed  
under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype  
may vary somewhat with variations in environment such as  
temperature and light intensity without, however, any vari-  
ance in genotype.

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and  
are determined to be the unique characteristics of ‘Verice-  
cla’. These characteristics in combination distinguish  
‘Vericecla’ as a new and distinct cultivar of *Hypericum*:

1. Upright plant habit.
2. Durable dark green-colored leaves.

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3. Freely flowering habit.

4. Large pale yellow-colored fruits.

5. Good postproduction longevity.

Plants of the new *Hypericum* differ from plants of the  
female parent selection in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Hypericum* have more compact and  
denser inflorescences than plants of the female plant  
selection.

2. Plants of the new *Hypericum* have more rounded fruits  
than plants of the female parent selection.

Plants of the new *Hypericum* differ from plants of the  
male parent selection in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Hypericum* have more upright flow-  
ering stems than plants of the male parent selection.

2. Plants of the new *Hypericum* have stronger and darker  
green-colored leaves than plants of the male parent  
selection.

3. Plants of the new *Hypericum* are more freely flowering  
than plants of the male parent selection.

4. Plants of the new *Hypericum* and the male parent  
selection differ in fruit coloration as plants of the male  
parent selection have brown-colored fruits.

Plants of the new *Hypericum* can be compared to plants  
of the cultivar Verivocla, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No.  
16,326. In side-by-side comparisons conducted by the  
Inventor in Wieringerwerf, The Netherlands, plants of the  
new *Hypericum* differed from plants of the cultivar Verivo-  
cla in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Hypericum* were more upright than  
plants of the cultivar Verivocla.

2. Plants of the new *Hypericum* had shorter flowering  
stems than plants of the cultivar Verivocla.

3. Plants of the new *Hypericum* were more freely branch-  
ing than plants of the cultivar Verivocla.

4. Plants of the new *Hypericum* had longer flower pedicels  
than plants of the cultivar Verivocla.

5. Plants of the new *Hypericum* had more rounded fruits  
than plants of the cultivar Verivocla.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying colored photographs illustrate the  
overall appearance of the new cultivar, 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 actual colors of the new *Hypericum*.

The photograph on the first sheet comprises a side perspective view of a typical flowering stem of 'Vericecla'.

The photograph at the top of the second sheet is a close-up view of typical flowers of 'Vericecla'.

The photograph at the bottom of the second sheet is a close-up view of typical fruits of 'Vericecla'.

#### 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. Plants used for the aforementioned photographs and following description were grown under conditions which closely approximate commercial production conditions during the summer in an outdoor nursery in Wieringerwerf, The Netherlands for about one year. During the production of the plants, day temperatures ranged from 14° C. to 30° C. and night temperatures ranged from 10° C. to averaged 14° C.

Botanical classification: *Hypericum androsaemum* cultivar Vericecla.

Parentage:

*Female, or seed, parent.*—Proprietary selection of *Hypericum androsaemum* identified as code number 121 062, not patented.

*Male, or pollen, parent.*—Proprietary selection of *Hypericum androsaemum* identified as code number 222 258, not patented.

Propagation:

*Type cutting.*—Vegetative cuttings.

*Time to initiate roots, summer.*—About two weeks at 21° C.

*Time to initiate roots, winter.*—About three weeks at 21° C.

*Time to produce a rooted young plant, summer.*—About one month at 21° C.

*Time to produce a rooted young plant, winter.*—About 40 days at 21° C.

*Root description.*—Fine, fibrous; color, 163A overlain with 200A.

*Rooting habit.*—Freely branching; dense.

Plant description:

*Form.*—Upright plant form; narrow inverted triangle. Freely branching with about ten flowering stems developing per plant; dense and bushy plant form; moderately vigorous growth habit.

*Plant height.*—About 50 cm.

*Plant width (spread).*—About 60 cm.

*Lateral branch description.*—Length: About 9 cm. Diameter: About 2.5 mm. Internode length: About 4.5 cm. Strength: Moderately strong. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color, young: 145C. Color, mature: 164A.

Foliage description:

*Arrangement.*—Opposite, simple; sessile.

*Length.*—About 5.8 cm.

*Width.*—About 4.5 cm.

*Shape.*—Ovate.

*Apex.*—Obtuse.

*Base.*—Slightly cordate.

*Margin.*—Entire; slightly undulate.

*Texture, upper and lower surfaces.*—Glabrous; rugose.

*Venation pattern.*—Pinnate.

*Color.*—Developing foliage, upper surface: Darker than 144A. Developing foliage, lower surface: Close to 139D. Fully expanded foliage, upper surface: Darker than 139A; venation, close to 145C to 145D. Fully expanded foliage, lower surface: 147D; venation, 145D.

*Stipules.*—Length: About 8 mm. Width: About 4 mm. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Glabrous; slightly rugose. Color, upper surface: 143A. Color, lower surface: 138D.

Flower description:

*Flower arrangement and shape.*—Bright yellow-colored single flowers arranged in terminal compound umbels with about 16 flowers per umbel. Flowers persistent. Flowers face mostly upright to outwardly.

*Fragrance.*—None detected.

*Natural flowering season.*—Summer, typically June to September in The Netherlands.

*Postproduction longevity.*—Cut flowers are typically harvested when all flowers have developed fruits. Postproduction longevity of cut stems with fruits is about two weeks.

*Flower buds.*—Length: About 8 mm. Diameter: About 6 mm. Shape: Ovate. Color: 12B; towards the margin, 14A.

*Inflorescence size.*—Length: About 6 cm. Diameter: About 7 cm.

*Flowers.*—Diameter: About 2.6 cm. Depth (height): About 1.1 cm.

*Petals.*—Quantity/arrangement: Five in a single whorl. Length: About 1.2 cm. Width: About 7.5 mm. Shape: Broadly elliptic. Apex: Retuse; slightly hooked. Base: Attenuate. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Glabrous, smooth; satiny. Color: When opening and fully opened, upper surface: 12A. When opening and fully opened, lower surface: 12B.

*Sepals.*—Quantity/arrangement: Five in a single whorl. Length: About 1 cm. Width: About 8 mm. Shape: Oval. Apex: Retuse. Base: Broadly attenuate. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Glabrous, slightly rugose. Color: When opening, upper surface: 143A; towards the margins, 60A. When opening, lower surface: 139D. Fully opened, upper surface: 137A; towards the base, 144B. Fully opened, lower surface: 146D.

*Peduncles.*—Strength: Strong. Length: About 1.5 cm. Diameter: About 1.3 mm. Aspect: Erect to about 45° from vertical. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: 144B slightly overlain with 184A.

*Pedicels.*—Strength: Strong. Length: About 2.2 cm. Diameter: About 1.4 mm. Aspect: Erect to about 45° from the stem axis. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: 144A overlain with 184A.

*Reproductive organs.*—Stamens: Quantity per flower: About 100. Filament length: About 1.3 cm. Filament color: 12A. Anther shape: Broadly ovate. Anther length: About 0.5 mm. Anther color: 23A. Pollen amount: Moderate. Pollen color: 23A. Pistils: Quantity per flower: Three. Pistil length: About 9 mm. Stigma shape: Globular. Stigma color: 60B. Style length: About 4 mm. Style color: 2C. Ovary color: 5B.

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*Fruits*.—Length: About 1 cm. Diameter: About 1 cm.  
Shape: Roughly spherical. Texture: Smooth; slightly  
ribbed. Color: 10D; at the apex, 163A.

*Seeds*.—Length: About 1 mm. Diameter: About 0.5  
mm. Color: 200A.

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

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Garden performance: Plants of the new *Hypericum* have  
exhibited moderate tolerance to rain and wind and have  
been observed to tolerate temperatures ranging from  
about −15° C. to about 35° C.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct *Hypericum* plant named ‘Vericecla’  
as illustrated and described.

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