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

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(54) ***GERANIUM* PLANT NAMED 'BALLURVIO'**

(50) Latin Name: ***Pelargonium* ×*hortorum***
Varietal Denomination: **Ballurvio**

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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 67 days.

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(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./324**
(58) **Field of Classification Search** Plt./324
See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Geranium* plant named 'Ballurvio', characterized by its semi-double type medium violet-colored flowers, medium green-colored foliage, and vigorous, upright growth habit.

2 Drawing Sheets

Latin name of genus and species of plant claimed: *Pelargonium×hortorum.*

Variety denomination: 'Ballurvio'.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of *Geranium* plant botanically known as *Pelargonium× hortorum* and hereinafter referred to by the cultivar name 'Ballurvio'.

The new cultivar originated in a controlled breeding program in Arroyo Grande, Calif. during September 2002. The objective of the breeding program was the development of *Geranium* cultivars with unique flower coloration, medium green-colored foliage, and a vigorous, upright growth habit.

The new *Geranium* cultivar is the result of cross-pollination. The female (seed) parent of the new cultivar is Tango Violet 'Fistangoli', U.S. Plant Pat. No. 12,274, characterized by its semi-double type medium violet-colored flowers, medium green-colored foliage, and upright growth habit. The male (pollen) parent of the new cultivar is Designer Violet 'Baldesvio', U.S. Plant Pat. No. 11,676, characterized by its semi-double type medium violet-colored flowers, medium green-colored foliage, and upright growth habit. The new cultivar was discovered and selected as a single flowering plant within the progeny of the above stated cross-pollination during February 2004 in a controlled environment at Arroyo Grande, Calif.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by terminal stem cuttings since February 2004 at Arroyo Grande, Calif. and West Chicago, Ill. has demonstrated that the new cultivar reproduces true to type with all of the characteristics, as herein described, firmly fixed and retained through successive generations of such asexual propagation.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The following characteristics of the new cultivar have been repeatedly observed and can be used to distinguish 'Ballurvio' as a new and distinct cultivar of *Geranium* plant:

1. Semi-double type medium violet-colored flowers;
2. Medium green-colored foliage; and
3. Vigorous, upright growth habit.

Plants of the new cultivar differ from plants of the male parent primarily in flower color and foliage color.

Of the many commercially available *Geranium* cultivars known to the inventor, the most similar in comparison to the new cultivar is the female parent Tango Violet 'Fistangoli', U.S. Plant Pat. No. 12,274. However, in side by side comparisons, plants of the new cultivar differ from plants of 'Fistangoli' in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new cultivar are taller and wider than plants of 'Fistangoli'; and
2. Plants of the new cultivar have a flower color different from plants of 'Fistangoli'.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying photographs show, as nearly true as it is reasonably possible to make the same in color illustrations of this type, typical flower and foliage characteristics of the new cultivar. Colors in the photographs differ slightly from the color values cited in the detailed description, which accurately describes the colors of 'Ballurvio'. The plants were grown in 4.5 inch pots for 8 weeks in a greenhouse at West Chicago, Ill.

FIG. **1** illustrates a side view of the overall growth and flowering habit of 'Ballurvio'.

FIG. **2** illustrates a close-up view of an individual umbel of 'Ballurvio'.

FIG. **3** illustrates a close-up view of an individual flower of 'Ballurvio'.

FIG. **4** illustrates a close-up view of an individual leaf of 'Ballurvio'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The new cultivar has not been observed under all possible environmental conditions to date. Accordingly, it is possible that the phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in the environment, such as temperature, light intensity, and day length, without, however, any variance in genotype.

The chart used in the identification of colors described herein is The R.H.S. Colour Chart of The Royal Horticultural Society, London, England, 2001 edition, except where general color terms of ordinary significance are used. The

color values were determined on Jul. 24, 2006 between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. under natural light conditions in West Chicago, Ill.

The following descriptions and measurements describe plants produced from cuttings taken from stock plants and grown in a glass-covered greenhouse under conditions comparable to those used in commercial practice. The plants were grown at West Chicago, Ill. in 4.5 inch pots for 8 weeks utilizing a soilless growth medium. Greenhouse temperatures were maintained at approximately 70° F. to 77° F. (21° C. to 25° C.) during the day and approximately 65° F. to 68° F. (18° C. to 20° C.) during the night. Greenhouse light levels of 2,500 footcandles to 6,000 footcandles were maintained during the day.

Botanical classification: *Pelargonium×hortorum* cultivar Ballurvio.

Parentage:

Female parent.—Tango Violet 'Fistangoli', U.S. Plant Pat. No. 12,274.

Male parent.—Designer Violet 'Baldesvio', U.S. Plant Pat. No. 11,676.

Propagation:

Type cutting.—Terminal stem.

Time to initiate roots.—Approximately 9 to 13 days.

Time to produce a rooted cutting.—Approximately 18 to 22 days.

Root description.—Fibrous.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching.

Plant description:

Commercial crop time.—Approximately 8 to 9 weeks from a rooted cutting.

Growth habit and general appearance.—Vigorous, upright.

Size.—Height from soil level to top of plant plane: Approximately 20.9 cm. Height from soil level to top of foliage: Approximately 10.8 cm. Width: Approximately 23.6 cm.

Branching habit.—Freely basal branching. Quantity of main branches per plant: Approximately 2.

Branch.—Strength: Strong. Length: Approximately 5.8 cm. Diameter: Approximately 9.3 mm. Length of central internode: Approximately 1.3 cm. Texture: Densely pubescent with a mixture of glandular and nonglandular hairs. Gland color: Mixture of 32C, transparent; and colorless, transparent. Color of young and mature stems: 144A.

Foliage description:

General description.—Quantity of leaves per lateral branch: Approximately 11. Fragrance: None. Form: Simple. Arrangement: Opposite.

Leaves.—Aspect: Petiole is at an acute angle to stem and blade is perpendicular to stem. Shape: Reniform. Margin: Crenate, palmately lobed. Apex: Obtuse. Base: Cordate. Venation pattern: Palmate. Length of mature leaf: Approximately 5.3 cm. Width of mature leaf: Approximately 8.8 cm. Texture of upper surface: Pubescent with a mixture of glandular and nonglandular hairs. Texture of lower surface: Pubescent with a mixture of glandular and nonglandular hairs, dense on venation. Gland color: Colorless, transparent. Color of upper surface of young foliage: 137B with venation of 137B. Color of lower surface of young foliage: 138B with venation of 138C. Color of upper surface of mature foliage: 137C with a faint zone of 137A and venation of 137A. Color of lower surface of mature foliage: 147B with venation of 147D.

Petiole.—Length: Approximately 6.0 cm. Diameter: Approximately 2.1 mm. Texture: Densely pubescent with a mixture of glandular and nonglandular hairs. Gland color: 32C, transparent. Color: 146B.

Flowering description:

Flowering habit.—'Ballurvio' is freely flowering under outdoor growing conditions with substantially continuous blooming from spring through autumn and year-round in greenhouse environment.

Lastingness of individual flower on the plant.—Approximately 10 to 13 days.

Inflorescence description:

General description.—Type: Umbel. Positioned above foliage. Quantity of fully open umbels per plant: Approximately 1. Quantity of developing umbels per plant: Approximately: 1. Fragrance: None. Length or height: Approximately 6.3 cm. Width: Approximately 9.8 cm. Quantity of fully open flowers per inflorescence: Approximately 15.

Peduncle.—Strength: Strong. Aspect: Erect. Length: Approximately 15.1 cm. Diameter: Approximately 4.0 mm. Texture: Densely pubescent with a mixture of glandular and nonglandular hairs. Gland color: 32C, transparent. Color: 144A.

Flower description:

General description.—Type: Semi-double.

Bud.—Rate of opening: Generally takes 5 to 7 days for bud to progress from first color to fully open flower.

Bud just before opening.—Shape: Elliptic. Length: Approximately 1.5 cm. Width: Approximately 9.1 mm. Sepal texture: Densely pubescent with a mixture of glandular and nonglandular hairs. Gland color: 32C, transparent. Petal texture: Glabrous. Petal color: 46A at margin and N66B at center.

Corolla.—Shape: Round. Diameter: Approximately 5.9 cm. Depth: Approximately 2.0 cm.

Petals.—Quantity: Approximately 7.9 petals and 3.0 irregularly-shaped petaloids per flower. Shape: Obovate. Appearance: Velvety, iridescent. Margin: Entire. Apex: Obtuse. Base: Attenuate. Length of upper petals: Approximately 2.5 cm. Width of upper petals: Approximately 1.5 cm. Length of lower petals: Approximately 2.1 cm. Width of lower petals: Approximately 2.2 cm. Texture of upper and lower surfaces: Glabrous. Color of upper surface of upper petals when fully open: More blue than N66A with an overlay at base of 40A and venation of N34A. Color of lower surface of upper petals when fully open: N66B with an overlay at base of 40B. Color of upper surface of lower petals when fully open: Between N66A and N66B and venation of 60B. Color of lower surface of lower petals when fully open: N66B and venation of 61B.

Calyx.—Shape: 5-pointed star. Diameter: Approximately 2.0 cm.

Sepals.—Quantity per flower: Approximately 5. Shape: Lanceolate. Margin: Entire. Apex: Acuminate. Base: Fused. Length of upper sepal: Approximately 1.1 cm. Width of upper sepal: Approximately 4.0 mm. Length of lower sepals: Approximately 1.0 cm. Width of lower sepals: Approximately 3.0 mm. Texture of upper surface: Glabrous. Texture of lower surface: Densely pubescent with a mixture of glandular and nonglandular hairs. Gland color: 32C, transparent. Color of upper surface: 144A. Color of lower surface: 144A with an overlay of 184B.

Pedicel.—Strength: Strong. Aspect: Acute angle to stem. Length: Approximately 1.9 cm. Diameter: Approximately 2.0 mm. Texture: Densely pubescent with a mixture of glandular and nonglandular hairs. Gland color: Mixture of 32C, transparent; and colorless, transparent. Color: 144A with an overlay of 184B.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium: Quantity of mature stamens: Approximately 7 per flower. Anther shape: Oblong. Anther length: Approximately 2.0 mm. Anther color: 83A. Pollen amount: Moderate. Pollen color: N25B. Gynoecium: Pistil quantity: 1 per flower. Pistil length: Approximately 1.0 cm. Stigma shape: 5 branched. Stigma length: Approximately 3.0 mm. Stigma color: 53A. Style length: Approximately 2.0 mm. Style color: 53D. Ovary length: Approximately 5.0 mm. Ovary texture: Densely pubescent. Ovary color: 144A.

Seed and fruit production: Neither seed nor fruit production has been observed.

Disease and pest resistance: Resistance to pathogens and pests common to *Geranium* has not been observed.

What is claimed is:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Geranium* plant named 'Ballurvio', substantially as herein shown and described.

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FIG. 1

FIG. 2

FIG. 3

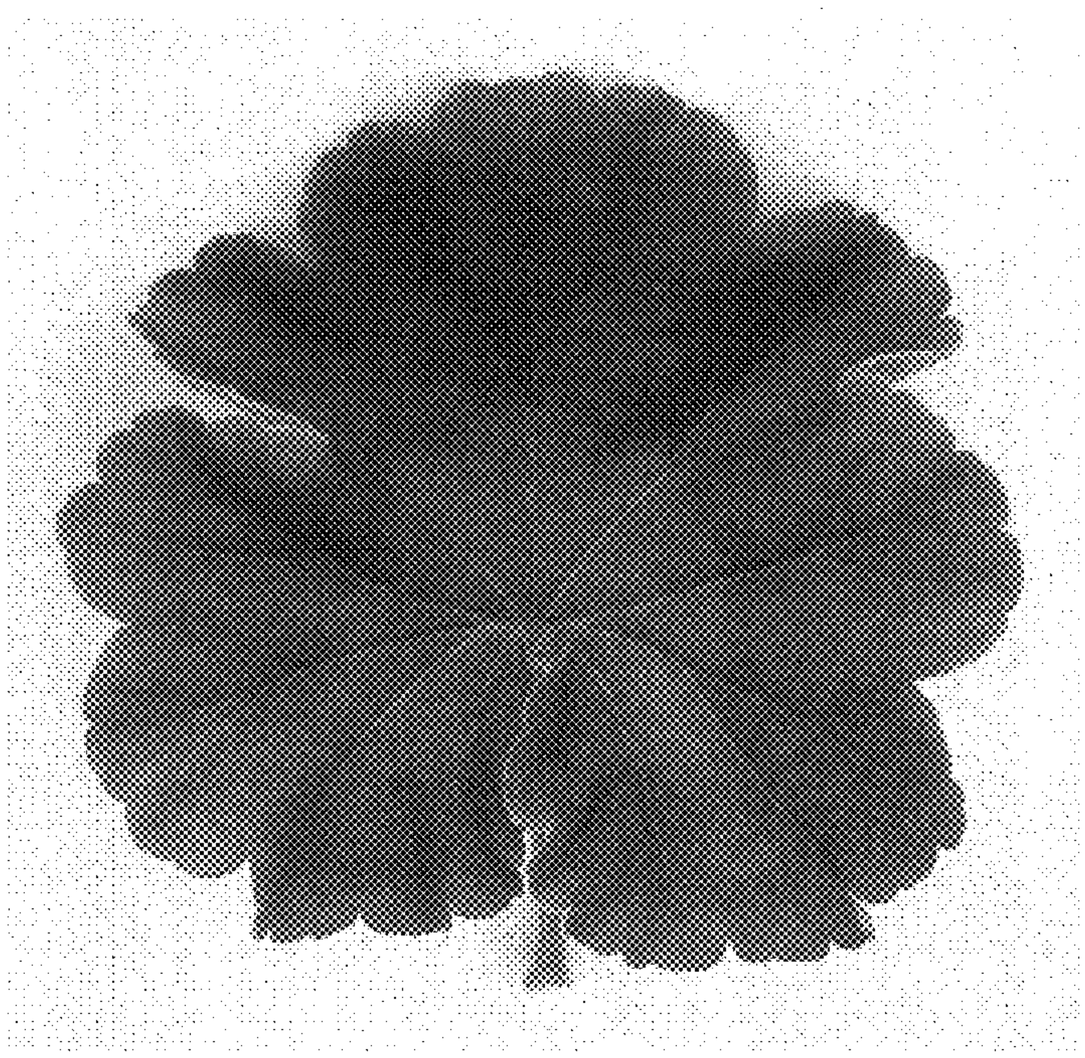

FIG. 4