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

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(54) ***VERBENA* PLANT NAMED 'RASPENA'**

(50) Latin Name: ***Verbena×hybrida***
Varietal Denomination: **Raspena**

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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 2 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **11/640,770**

(22) Filed: **Dec. 18, 2006**

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

(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **Plt./308**
(58) **Field of Classification Search** ..... Plt./308
See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new *Verbena* plant particularly distinguished by its red purple flower with a dark purple centre, early flowering, and a habit that is upright and later spreading.

**1 Drawing Sheet**



Latin name of the genus and species of the plant claimed: *Verbena×hybrida.*

Varietal denomination: 'Raspena'.

## BACKGROUND OF THE NEW PLANT

The present invention comprises a new distinct cultivar of *Verbena,* botanically known as *Verbena×hybrida.*

The new cultivar is originated from the self-pollination of 'D1472-2' as female parent and as the male or pollen parent. 'D1472-2' is a purple flowering *Verbena,* 'D1472-2' is not commercially available and is not known by any synonyms. 'D1472-2' has not been patented.

As a result of the self-pollination the present cultivar was crated in 2003 in Enkhuizen, Netherlands and has been repeatedly asexually reproduced by cuttings in Enkhuizen, Netherlands and Sarrians, France over a two year period. The new variety is stable and reproduces true to type in successive generations of asexual reproduction.

This new *Verbena* plant is an annual in most climatical zones in the US, only in zones 9 and 10 it is a perennial plant.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

The new *Verbena* plant is illustrated by the accompanying drawing which shows blooms, buds and foliage of the plant in full color, the color shown being as true as can be reasonably obtained by conventional photographic procedures.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW CULTIVAR

The following detailed descriptions set forth the distinctive characteristics of this new *Verbena.* The data the define these characteristics were collected from asexual reproductions carried out in Enkhuizen, Netherlands. The plant history was taken in 14 week old plants, blossomed under natural light in a greenhouse, and grown in a 10.5 cm container. Color readings were taken in the greenhouse under ambient light.

Color references are primarily to the R.H.S. Colour Chart of The Royal Horticultural Society of London.



TABLE 1

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE NEW CULTIVAR 'RASPENA,' ITS PARENT, AND THE MOST RESEMBLING VARIETY

| | 'Raspena' | 'D1472-2' | 'Lanai Royal Purple' |
|---|---|---|---|
| Flower color | Red-purple | Purple | Violet purple |
| Earliness | Early | Early | Mid early |
| Seed set | No | Sparse | Plentiful |

The commercial name of the most resembling variety is 'Lanai Royal Purple.' This variety has protected name "Lan Roy Pur' and is patented as U.S. Plant Pat. No. 14,117.

The plant:

*Classification.*—Botanical : *Verbena×hybrida.*

*Parentage.*—Female and male parent : A seedling named 'D1472-2' is one of our seedlings from our D-generation of plants.

*Growth habit.*—Upright, decumbent.

*Plant height.*—15–26 cm.

*Spreading area of plant.*—40–50 cm.

*Branching character.*—Freely branching and lateral branching at every node.

*Number of branches per plant.*—28–34.

*Blooming period.*—From March until November.

The stem:

*Diameter.*—2 mm.

*Length.*—14–24 cm.

*Shape.*—Tetragonal.

*Anthocyanin pigmentation.*—Absent.

*Color of the stem.*—137C.

*Length of internode.*—24 mm.

*Texture.*—Smooth.

*Pubescence.*—Pubescent.

*Length lateral branches.*—24 cm.

The foliage:

*Phyllotaxis.*—Opposite.

*Shape of blade.*—Lanceolate.

*Texture.*—Upper side : Smooth. Lower side : Smooth.

*Venation.*—Pinnate.

*Leaf margin.*—Crenate.

*Leaf base.*—Obtuse.

*Leaf apex.*—Acute.
*Length.*—18–30 mm.
*Width.*—14–22 mm.
*Depth of incision.*—8–10 mm.
*Number of incisions.*—2–6 per leaf.
*Color.*—Upper side : 143B. Lower side : 143C.
*Pubescence.*—Slightly pubescent.
*Length of petiode.*—2 mm.
*Petiole surface structure.*—Slightly pubescent.
*Petiole diameter.*—1 mm.
*Petiole coloration.*—143B, both surfaces.

The bud:

*Peduncle length.*—38–54 mm.
*Peduncle diameter.*—2 mm.
*Peduncle color.*—143C.
*Budsize.*—Diameter : 2 mm. Length : 4–8 mm.
*Budshape.*—Elongated and ovate.
*Budcolour.*—137C.
*Sepals.*—Color (upper side) : 143B. Color (lower side) : 143C. Form : Upright. Number : 5, fused. Length : 7–10 mm. Width : 2 mm. Shape : Elongated. Apex : Emarginate. Base : Fused. Margin : Entire.

The flower:

*Flower diameter.*—14–20 cm.
*Flower height.*—14–20 mm.
*Flower tube length.*—12–18 mm.
*Flower throat diameter.*—3 mm.
*Flower throat color.*—156A.
*Inflorescence.*—Corymb.
*Flower-form.*—Single, salverform; sessile on terminal corymbs.
*Petal color.*—Upper side : 67A, more red, to 64A in the centre. Lower side : 67C.
*Overlapping of petals.*—Separate, to almost overlapping.
*No. of petals.*—Gamopetalous, 5 lobed.
*Petal apex.*—Obcordate.
*Petal base.*—Fused.
*Petal margin.*—Entire.



*Petal surface texture.*—Smooth.
*Size of the petal.*—Length : 7–9 mm. Width : 6–8 mm.
*Inflorescence.*—Length : 18–24 mm. Diameter : 24–32 mm.
*Calyx length.*—8–10 mm.
*Calyx diameter.*—3–4 mm.
*Anthocyanin pigmentation of calyx limb.*—Absent.
*Color of the calyx.*—143B.
*No. of flowers per inflorescence.*—20–30.
*Fragrance.*—No fragrance.
*Bloom time of one inflorescence.*—New florets continue to open in one corymb over a period of 14 days.
*Lastingness of one flower.*—2–4 days.

Reproductive organs:

*Androecium.*—Stamens quantity : 4. Anther shape : Ovoid. Anther length : 1 mm. Anther color : 144C. Pollen amount : No pollen.
*Gynoecium.*—Pistils quantity : 1. Pistils length : 1–1.5 cm. Stigma shape : Bi-lobed. Stigma color : 144C. Style length : 1.9 cm. Style color : 144C. Ovary color : 144C.

The fruit and the seed: No fruit development or seed set has been observed to date.

Roots:

*Type of roots.*—Fibrous, color 155B. Roots start to grow on every part of the stem that contacts the soil, so not only at the nodes.

Physiological and ecological characteristics:

*Disease/pest resistance.*—Plants of the new *Verbena* have been noted to be resistant to especially powdery mildew.
*Temperature tolerance.*—Plants of the new *Verbena* have been observed to tolerate temperatures from 0–35 degrees C.

What is claimed is:

**1**. A new and distinct variety of *Verbena* plant, substantially as herein illustrated and described.

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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

# CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : PP 18,979 P2
APPLICATION NO. : 11/640770
DATED : June 24, 2008
INVENTOR(S) : Henricus G. W. Stemkens



It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

At column 1, line 14, delete “the” and insert therefor --this-- before “self-pollination”

At column 1, line 15, delete “crated” and insert therefor --created--

Signed and Sealed this

Nineteenth Day of August, 2008

JON W. DUDAS
*Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office*