

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

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

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

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(58) **Field of Classification Search** **Plt./442**
See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Hypericum* plant named
‘Seihero’, characterized by its yellow-colored flowers, large,
red-colored fruit, dark green-colored foliage, and vigorous,
upright growth habit.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Latin name of genus and species of plant claimed: *Hypericum androsaemum*.

Variety denomination: ‘Seihero’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of *Hypericum* plant botanically known as *Hypericum androsaemum*, used commercially as stems with fruit and hereinafter referred to by the cultivar name ‘Seihero’.

The new cultivar originated in a controlled breeding program in Elmshorn, Germany during July 2002. The objective of the breeding program was the development of *Hypericum* cultivars with unique and large attractive fruit coloration.

The new *Hypericum* cultivar is the result of open-pollination using a bulk of proprietary female and male *Hypericum androsaemum* parent plants, not patented, characterized by large brown-colored berries or small berries ranging in color from red to pink. The new cultivar was discovered and selected as a single flowering plant within the progeny of the above stated open-pollination during June 2003 in a controlled environment at Elmshorn, Germany.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by terminal stem cuttings since June 2003 at Elmshorn, Germany and Arroyo Grande, Calif. 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 ‘Seihero’ as a new and distinct cultivar of *Hypericum* plant:

1. Yellow-colored flowers;
2. Large, red-colored fruit;
3. Dark green-colored foliage; and
4. Vigorous, upright growth habit.

Plants of the new cultivar differ from plants of the female and male parents primarily in the size of red-colored fruit.

Of the many commercially available *Hypericum* cultivars known to the inventor, the most similar in comparison to the new cultivar is ‘Excellent Flair’, not patented. However, in

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comparison, plants of the new cultivar differ from plants of ‘Excellent Flair’ in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new cultivar have a fruit color different from plants of ‘Excellent Flair’;
2. Plants of the new cultivar have a leaf color different from plants of ‘Excellent Flair’;
3. Plants of the new cultivar have a mature stem color different from ‘Excellent Flair’; and
4. Plants of the new cultivar have smaller inflorescences than plants of ‘Excellent Flair’.

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 ‘Seihero’. The plants were grown outdoors in the ground for approximately 15 months at Elburn, Ill.

FIG. 1 illustrates a side view of flowers, fruits, and the overall growth habit of ‘Seihero’.

FIG. 2 illustrates a close-up view of the flower of ‘Seihero’.

FIG. 3 illustrates a close-up view of the fruit of ‘Seihero’.

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 Aug. 2, 2007 between 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. under natural light conditions.

The following descriptions and measurements describe plants grown outdoors in the ground at Elburn, Ill. under

commercial production practices when outdoor temperatures typically range in fall and winter months from an average low of 12° F. (−11° C.) to 32° F. (0° C.) to an average high of 29° F. (−1° C.) to 50° F. (10° C.) and in spring and summer months from an average low of 40° F. (4° C.) to 65° F. (18° C.) to an average high of 66° F. (18° C.) to 86° F. (30° C.). Plants were about 15 months old.

Botanical classification: *Hypericum androsaemum* cultivar Seihero.

Parentage:

Female parent.—A proprietary mix of *Hypericum androsaemum* plants, not patented.

Male parent.—A proprietary mix of *Hypericum androsaemum* plants, not patented.

Propagation:

Type cutting.—Terminal stem.

Time to initiate roots.—Approximately 14 to 21 days.

Time to produce a rooted cutting.—Approximately 2 months.

Root description.—Fine, white.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching, dense. Height of entire root structure: Approximately 50 cm. Diameter of entire root structure: Approximately 100 cm.

Plant description:

Form.—Erect, perennial, woody shrub; broad, inverted triangle.

Growth habit and general appearance.—Vigorous, dense bushy.

Size.—Height from soil level to top of plant plane: Approximately 54.5 cm. Width: Approximately 55.0 cm.

Branching habit.—Freely basal branching. Quantity of lateral branches per plant: Approximately 11. Production of harvestable stems increases with age of plant and remains constant after three years of growth.

Branch.—Shape: Rounded. Strength: Strong. Length: Approximately 48.5 cm. Diameter: Approximately 6.0 mm. Length of central internode: Approximately 5.1 cm. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color of young stem: 144B with an overlay of 185A. Color of mature stem: 177B.

Foliage description:

General description.—Quantity of leaves per main branch: Approximately 19. Form: Simple, sessile. Arrangement: Opposite.

Leaves.—Shape: Oval to lanceolate. Margin: Entire. Apex: Acute. Base: Cordate. Venation pattern: Pinnate. Length of mature leaf: Approximately 8.1 cm. Width of mature leaf: Approximately 3.6 cm. Texture of upper surface: Smooth, glabrous. Texture of lower surface: Smooth, glabrous. Color of upper surface of young foliage: Darker than 144A with venation of 144C. Color of lower surface of young foliage: 138B with venation of 144C. Color of upper surface of mature foliage: 139A with venation of 144C. Color of lower surface of mature foliage: 147C with venation of 144C.

Flowering description:

Flowering habit.—‘Seihero’ flowers throughout the summer under outdoor growing conditions and produces harvestable cut stems with fruit beginning in August; flowering period typically lasts about 60 days.

Lastingness of individual flower on the plant.—Approximately 14 days.

Lastingness of individual flower as a cut flower.—Approximately 12 days.

Inflorescence description:

General description.—Type: Compound umbel, not persistent. Quantity of flowers per inflorescence: Approximately 5 to 6. Fragrance: None. Length or height: Approximately 4.2 cm. Width: Approximately 4.7 cm.

Peduncle.—Strength: Strong. Aspect: Approximately 45° angle from stem. Length: Approximately 1.2 cm. Diameter: Approximately 2.0 mm. Texture: smooth, glabrous. Color: 144A with an overlay of 183C.

Flower description:

General description.—Type: Single. Aspect: Upright.

Bud.—Shape: Ovoid. Length: Approximately 1.2 cm. Diameter: Approximately 9.0 mm. Color: 14A.

Corolla.—Shape: Round. Diameter: Approximately 3.4 cm. Depth: Approximately 2.1 cm.

Petals.—Quantity: 5, nonimbricate. Shape: Oval. Appearance: Flat, turning downward with age. Aspect: Slightly concave. Margin: Entire. Apex: Rounded. Base: Attenuate. Length: Approximately 1.6 cm. Width: Approximately 1.0 cm. Texture of upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color of upper surface when first open: 13A. Color of lower surface when first open: 12A. Color of upper surface when fully open: 13A. Color of lower surface when fully open: 13B.

Calyx.—Shape: Divergent, downward turning. Length: Approximately 1.1 cm. Width: Approximately 2.0 cm.

Sepals.—Quantity per flower: 5, nonimbricate. Shape: Oval. Appearance: Flat. Margin: Entire. Apex: Apiculate. Base: Broadly cuneate. Length: Approximately 1.2 cm. Width: Approximately 6.6 mm. Texture of upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color of upper surface of immature sepals: 144A. Color of lower surface of immature sepals: 144B. Color of upper surface of mature sepals: 144A with an overlay of 59A at apex. Color of lower surface of mature sepals: 144B with an overlay of 59A at apex.

Pedicels.—Strength: Strong. Aspect: Approximately 45° angle from peduncle. Length: Approximately 6.0 mm. Diameter: 1.0 mm. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: 144A with a faint overlay of 183C.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium: Stamen quantity: Approximately 90. Stamen length: Ranges from 1.0 cm to 1.4 cm. Anther shape: Oval. Anther length: Less than 1.0 mm. Anther color: 17C. Filament color: 3B. Pollen amount: Moderate. Pollen color: 13B. Gynoecium: Pistil quantity: 3 per flower. Pistil length: Approximately 1.2 cm. Stigma shape: Globular. Stigma color: 17A. Style length: Approximately 6.0 mm. Style color: 150D. Ovary diameter: Approximately 6.0 mm. Ovary color: Between 150C and 150D.

Fruit.—Type: Capsule. Taste: Bitter. Shape: Ellipsoidal. Quantity per inflorescence: Approximately 3 to 5. Quantity fruit clusters per plant: Approximately 42. Days to ripening: Approximately 10 days to color and 30 days to seed. Longevity on plant: Approximately 30 days. Length: Approximately 1.1 cm. Diameter: Approximately 9.7 mm. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color of immature fruit: 145A. Color of mature fruit: Between 42A and 42B.

Seed.—Quantity per fruit: Typically more than 100.
Length: Approximately 1.0 mm. Diameter: Approximately 0.5 mm. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: 200D.
Disease and pest resistance: Plants of the new *Hypericum* have been observed to be resistant to rust.
Weather tolerance: Plants of the new *Hypericum* have been observed to tolerate temperatures ranging from −10° C. to

35° C., and to demonstrate tolerance to rain and wind effects.
What is claimed is:
1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Hypericum* plant named ‘Seihero’, substantially as herein shown and described.

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FIG. 1

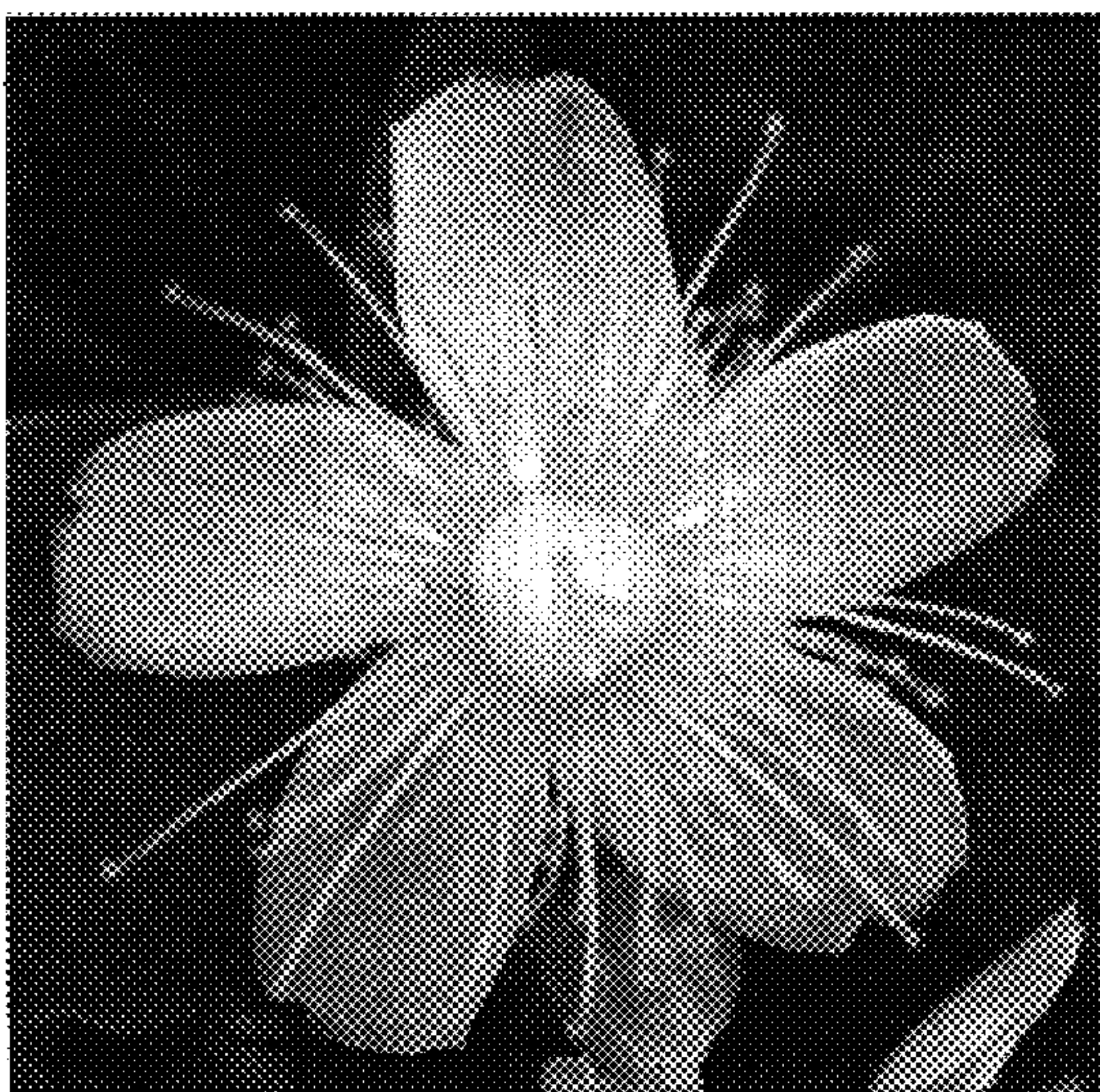


FIG. 2

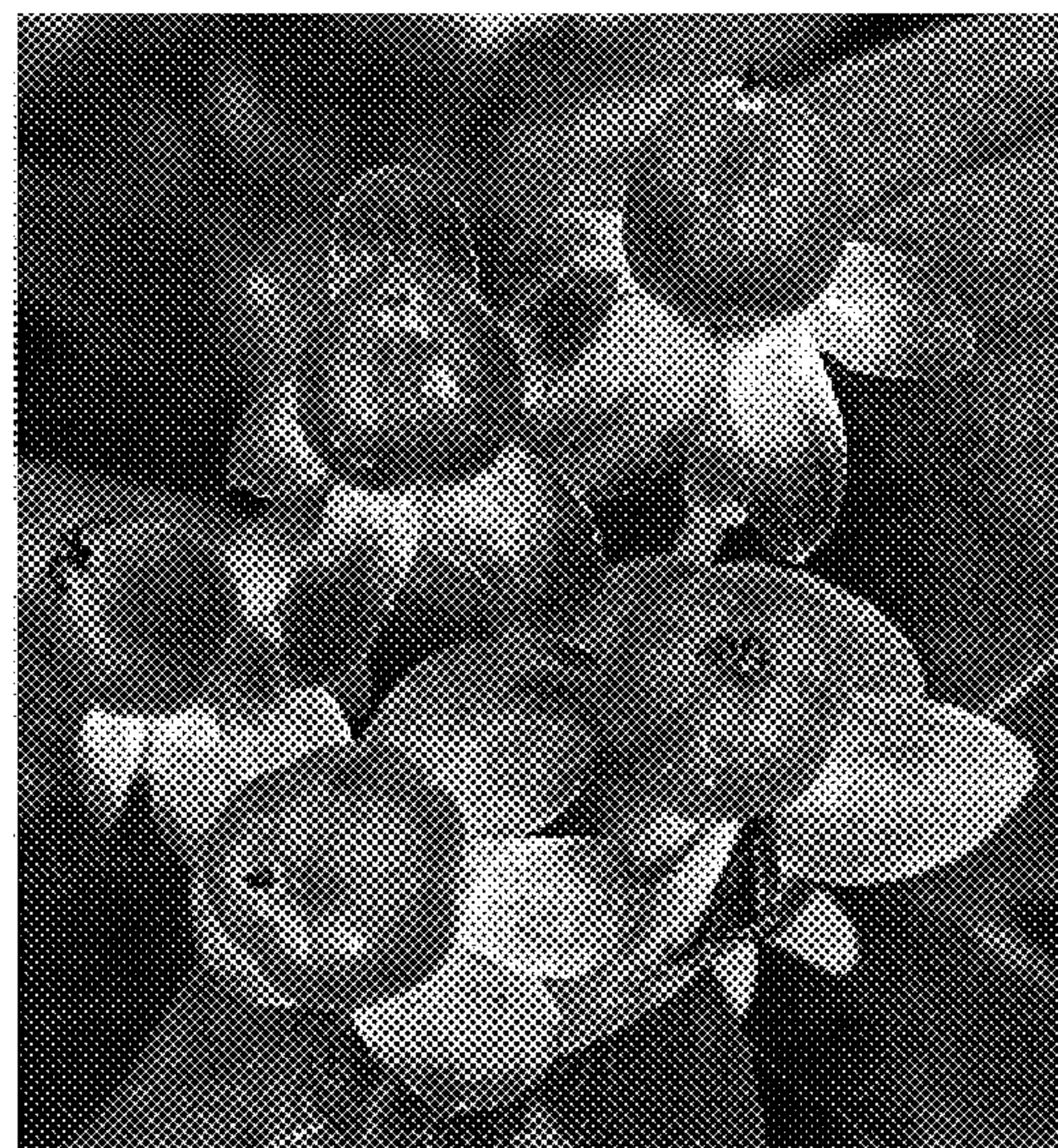


FIG. 3