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Stöckmann et al.

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(54) ***ILEX* PLANT NAMED ‘CASANOVA’**

(50) Latin Name: *Ilex meserveae*
Varietal Denomination: **Casanova**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Ilex* plant named ‘Casanova’,
characterized by its upright and outwardly spreading plant
habit; freely branching habit; dark green and pale yellow
bi-colored foliage; dark red-colored stems; red-colored
flower buds; and good garden performance.

2 Drawing Sheets

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Botanical designation: *Ilex meserveae*.
Cultivar denomination: ‘Casanova’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present Invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of *Ilex*, botanically known as *Ilex meserveae*, and hereinafter
referred to by the name ‘Casanova’.

The new *Ilex* is a naturally-occurring branch mutation of
the *Ilex meserveae* cultivar Blue Prince, not patented. The
new *Ilex* was discovered and selected by the Inventors from
with a population of plants of the cultivar Blue Prince in a
controlled environment in Westerstede, Germany in 1993.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Ilex* by cuttings taken in
a controlled environment in Bad Zwischenahn, Germany
since 1994 has shown that the unique features of this new
Ilex are stable and reproduced true to type in successive
generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The new *Ilex* has not been observed under all possible
environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary some-
what with variations in environment such as temperature
and/or light intensity without, however, any variance in
genotype. The following traits have been repeatedly
observed and are determined to be the unique characteristics
of ‘Casanova’. These characteristics in combination distin-
guish ‘Casanova’ as a new and distinct cultivar of *Ilex*:

1. Upright and outwardly spreading plant habit.
2. Freely branching habit.
3. Dark green and pale yellow bi-colored foliage.
4. Dark red-colored stems.
5. Red-colored flower buds.
6. Good garden performance.

Plants of the new *Ilex* differ from plants of the parent, the
cultivar Blue Prince, in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Ilex* are slower-growing than plants of
the cultivar Blue Prince.

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2. Plants of the new *Ilex* have green and pale yellow
bi-colored foliage whereas plants of the cultivar Blue
Prince have dark green-colored foliage.

Plants of the new *Ilex* can be compared to the plants of the
Ilex meserveae cultivar Blue Angel, not patented. In side-by-
side comparisons conducted in Boskoop, The Netherlands,
plants of the new *Ilex* differed from plants of the cultivar
Blue Angel in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Ilex* were more compact than and not
as upright as plants of the cultivar Blue Angel.
2. Plants of the new *Ilex* had green and pale yellow
bi-colored foliage whereas plants of the cultivar Blue
Angel had green-colored foliage.
3. Plants of the new *Ilex* did not produce berries whereas
plants of the cultivar Blue Angel produced red-colored
berries.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying colored photographs illustrate the
overall appearance of the new *Ilex*. These photographs show
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 colors
of the new *Ilex*.

The photograph on the first sheet comprises a side per-
spective view of a typical plant of ‘Casanova’ grown in a
container.

The photograph at the top of the second sheet is a close-up
view of typical leaves of ‘Casanova’.

The photograph at the bottom of the second sheet is a
close-up view of typical flower buds and flowers of
‘Casanova’.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The aforementioned photographs and following observa-
tions and measurements describe plants grown in Boskoop,
The Netherlands in 19-cm containers, in an outdoor nursery

during the winter and under commercial production conditions. During the production of the plants, day temperatures ranged from 1° C. to 12° C. and night temperatures ranged from -5° C. to 5° C. Plants used for the photographs and description were about five years old. In the following description, color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 2001 Edition, except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

Botanical classification: *Ilex meserveae* 'Casanova'.

Parentage: Naturally-occurring branch mutation of the *Ilex meserveae* cultivar Blue Prince, not patented.

Propagation:

Type.—By cuttings.

Time to produce a rooted young plant, summer.—About two months at temperatures of 20° C. to 30° C.

Time to produce a rooted young plant, winter.—About three months at temperatures of 15° C. to 25° C.

Root description.—Thick, fleshy; white in color.

Rooting habit.—Moderate branching; moderately dense.

Plant description:

Plant form and growth habit.—Perennial evergreen shrub; upright and outwardly spreading plant habit; globular to broadly inverted triangle. Low vigor.

Branching habit.—Freely branching habit; about three primary lateral branches and about 46 secondary lateral branches developing per plant.

Plant height.—About 37 cm.

Plant diameter, area of spread.—About 41 cm.

Lateral branch description.—Length: About 11.3 cm. Diameter: About 3.5 mm. Internode length: About 8 mm. Strength: Strong. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color, young stems: N186C. Color, mature stems: 176B to 176C; axial stripes, 176D.

Foliage description.—Arrangement: Alternate, simple. Length: About 3.7 cm. Width: About 2.4 cm. Shape: Elliptic to ovate. Apex: Sharply apiculate. Base: Attenuate. Margin: Spinose, about seven spines on each side. Venation pattern: Pinnate. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous; thick and leathery. Color: Developing foliage, upper surface: Center, 147A; random blotches, 189A and 145C; margins, 150D. Developing foliage, lower surface: Center, 147C; margins, between 150D and 4C. Fully expanded foliage, upper surface: Center, 147A; random blotches, 189A and 191A; margins, between 150D and 4C; venation, 144A; spine apices, 200A. Fully expanded foliage, lower surface: Center, 147B; random blotches, 147C and 148C; margins, 154D; venation, 148A, towards the base, N186C. Petiole: Length: About 5 mm. Diameter: About 1.5 mm. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color, upper and lower surfaces: Between 175A and 176A.

Flower description:

Flower arrangement and appearance.—Single cruciform flowers arranged in axillary compound cymes.

Freely flowering habit; about 15,000 flowers develop per plant during the flowering period.

Natural flowering season.—Plants of the new *Ilex* typically flower during the early spring in The Netherlands. Flowers not persistent.

Flower longevity.—Individual flowers last about five days on the plant.

Fragrance.—Very faint; sweet, pleasant.

Inflorescence height.—About 6 cm.

Inflorescence diameter.—About 8 cm.

Flower diameter.—About 7 mm.

Flower depth.—About 3.5 cm.

Flower bud.—Length: About 2 mm. Diameter: About 1.8 mm. Shape: Obovate. Color: 184A to 184B; towards the base, 155B to 155D.

Petals.—Arrangement: Single cruciform flower form; single whorl of four petals fused at the base. Length: About 3 mm. Width: About 3 mm. Shape: Broadly elliptic to orbicular. Apex: Rounded. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color: When opening and fully opened, upper surface: 184C to 184D; towards the base, 155D. When opening and fully opened, lower surface: 184A to 184B; towards the base, 155D.

Sepals.—Arrangement: Four fused in a single whorl; calyx, campanulate. Length: About 1.7 mm. Width: About 1.5 mm. Shape: Deltoid. Apex: Broadly acute. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color: Immature, upper and lower surfaces: 176B to 176B. Mature, upper and lower surfaces: 176B to 176C.

Peduncles.—Length: About 1 mm. Diameter: About 1 mm. Angle: About 30° from lateral branch axis. Strength: Strong. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: Between 175A and 176A.

Pedicels.—Length: About 1 mm. Width: About 1 mm. Angle: About 90° from vertical. Strength: Moderately strong. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: Between 155A and 157D.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium: Quantity per flower: About four. Filament length: About 3 mm. Anther shape: Reniform. Anther length: About 1.5 mm. Anther color: 4D. Pollen amount: Moderate. Pollen color: 8B. Gynoecium: No female reproductive structures observed.

Seed/fruit.—Seed and fruit development have not been observed.

Garden performance: Plants of the new *Ilex* have been observed to have good garden performance and to be tolerant to rain and wind. Plants of the new *Ilex* are hardy to USDA Zone 6 and tolerate high temperatures up to 35° C.

Disease/pest resistance: Plants have not been observed to be resistant to pathogens and pests common to *Ilex*.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Ilex* plant named 'Casanova' as illustrated and described.

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