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Ackerman et al.

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(54) **STRAWBERRY PLANT NAMED ‘PRESTIGE’**

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

(50) Latin Name: *Fragaria ananassa*
Varietal Denomination: **PRESTIGE**

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./209**

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(58) **Field of Classification Search** Plt./209
See application file for complete search history.

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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.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

(21) Appl. No.: **12/150,520**

This invention relates to a new and distinct variety of strawberry plant named ‘PRESTIGE’. This new strawberry plant named ‘PRESTIGE’ is primarily adapted to the growing conditions of the central coast of California, and is primarily characterized by its medium to large plant size; medium fruit size; spreading calyx segments; long petiolule length; three to four leaflets/tri-foliolate; moderate fruit production with very good flavor; and medium green foliage with medium glossy texture and medium interveinal blistering.

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Related U.S. Application Data

(60) Provisional application No. 60/996,102, filed on Nov. 1, 2007.

5 Drawing Sheets

1

2

Latin name of the genus and species of the plant claimed: *Fragaria ananassa*.
Variety denomination: ‘PRESTIGE’.

which in combination distinguish this strawberry plant as a new and distinct variety:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct strawberry variety named ‘PRESTIGE’. This new variety is a result of a controlled cross made in 2000 in an ongoing breeding program between strawberry variety designated ‘PS-1269’ (patented, U.S. Plant Pat. No. 10,686) and strawberry variety designated ‘PS-3523’ (patented, U.S. Plant Pat. No. 14,447). The variety is botanically known as *Fragaria ananassa*.

1. Medium to large plant size;
2. Medium fruit size;
3. Spreading calyx segments;
4. Long petiolule length;
5. Three to four leaflets/tri-foliolate;
6. Moderate fruit production with very good flavor; and
7. Medium green foliage with medium glossy texture and medium interveinal blistering.

The seedling resulting from the aforementioned cross was selected from a controlled breeding plot in Monterey County, California in the summer of 2002. After its selection, the new variety was asexually propagated by stolons in both San Joaquin County, California and Siskiyou County, California. The new variety was extensively tested over the next several years in fruiting fields in Monterey County, California. This propagation has demonstrated that the combination of traits disclosed herein as characterizing the new variety are fixed and remain true to type through successive generations of asexual reproduction.

The strawberry varieties that are believed to be most closely related to the new strawberry variety ‘PRESTIGE’ are the strawberry variety ‘PS-592’ (patented, U.S. Plant Pat. No. 9,903) and the strawberry variety ‘PS-4634’ (patented, U.S. Plant Pat. No. PP 17,487). In comparison to the similar strawberry varieties ‘PS-592’ and ‘PS-4634’, the new strawberry variety ‘PRESTIGE’ differs by the following combination of characteristics as described in Table 1:

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

‘PRESTIGE’ is primarily adapted to the climate and growing conditions of the central coast of California. The nearby Pacific Ocean provides the needed humidity and moderate temperatures to produce a strong vigorous plant and maintain fruit quality during the spring, summer and fall production months.

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and are determined to be unique characteristics of ‘PRESTIGE’,

TABLE 1

Characteristic	‘PRESTIGE’	‘PS-592’ (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 9,903)	‘PS-4634’ (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 17,487)
1. Color of mature fruit	Red	Orange red to red	Red to orange red
2. Average fruit weight (gm)	23.8	24.3	26.8
3. Marketable yield (gm/plt)	1,403	1,500	1,544
4. Attitude of the calyx	Spreading	Spreading to reflexed	Spreading to reflexed
5. Time of first harvest	Medium	Early	Early
6. Plant size	Medium to large	Large	Large

TABLE 1-continued

Characteristic	'PRESTIGE'	'PS-592' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 9,903)	'PS-4634' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 17,487)
7. Stolon diameter (mm)	3.5	4.1	3.9
8. Interveinal leaf blistering	Medium	Medium to strong	Medium to strong
9. Foliage gloss	Medium	Strong	Medium to strong
10. Number of leaflets	Three to four	Three	Three
11. Terminal leaf shape of base	Obtuse	Acute	Acute
12. Petiolule length (mm)	17.4	13.2	10.0

For identification a series of AFLP molecular markers have been determined for this new variety.

BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying color photographs illustrate the overall appearance of typical specimens of the new strawberry variety 'PRESTIGE', at various stages of development as true as it is reasonably possible with color reproductions of this type. Color in the photographs may differ slightly from the color value cited in the botanical description which accurately describe the color of 'PRESTIGE'. The depicted plant and plant parts of the new strawberry variety 'PRESTIGE' were taken in Monterey County, California, and are approximately 8 to 9 months old:

FIG. 1 shows typical fruiting field characteristics of 'PRESTIGE' taken in the month of July 2007;

FIG. 2 shows a close-up view of a typical leaf structure of 'PRESTIGE' taken in the month of July 2007;

FIG. 3 shows typical mature and immature field fruit of 'PRESTIGE' taken in the month of July 2007;

FIG. 4 shows a close-up view of mature fruit of 'PRESTIGE' taken in the month of July 2007;

FIG. 5 shows typical internal and external mature fruit characteristics of 'PRESTIGE' taken in the month of July 2007.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

'PRESTIGE' has not been observed under all possible environmental conditions. The characteristics of the new variety may vary in detail, depending upon variations in environmental factors, including weather (temperature, humidity and light intensity), day length, soil type and location.

The aforementioned photographs, together with the following description of the new variety 'PRESTIGE', unless otherwise noted, is based on observations taken during the 2007 growing season in Monterey County, California. These measurements and ratings were taken from plants of 'PRESTIGE' dug from a high-elevation nursery located in Siskiyou County, California during the middle of October 2006 and planted approximately 3 weeks later in Monterey County, California. The approximate age of the observed plants is 8 to 10 months. Yield observations and fruit quality characteristics are averaged from four years of data collected from the 2004 through 2007 growing seasons. Flower measurements and characteristics are from secondary flowers unless otherwise noted. Fruit characteristics and measurements are from secondary fruit unless otherwise noted.

Color terminology where noted follows the Munsell Book of Colors, Munsell Color, Baltimore Md. (1976).

The following Tables 8 describe fruit, plant, stolon, foliage, fruiting truss, flower and pest disease characteristics of the new strawberry 'PRESTIGE' in comparison to the similar strawberry variety 'PS-592' (patented, U.S. Plant Pat. No. PP 9,903) and strawberry variety 'PS-4634' (patented, U.S. Plant Pat. No. PP 17,487).

TABLE 2

Characteristic	FRUIT CHARACTERISTICS		
	'PRESTIGE'	'PS-592' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 9,903)	'PS-4634' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 17,487)
Color of mature fruit	7.5R 3/10 to 4/10 Red	7.5R 3/12 to 4/12 Orange red to red	7.5R 3/12 to 4/12 Red to orange red
Color of internal flesh	7.5R 4/10 to 4/12 Medium red	7.5R 5/10 to 4/10 Light red	7.5R 5/10 to 4/12 Medium to light red
Length (cm)	4.6	4.7	4.8
Width (cm)	3.9	4.2	4.1
Ratio length/width	1.18	1.13	1.17
	Slightly longer than broad	Slightly longer than broad	Slightly longer than broad
Calyx diameter (cm)	4.5	4.7	4.3
Average weight (gm)	23.8	24.3	26.8
Achene color	5Y 5/6 to 7.5R 3/8	5Y 6/8 to 7.5R 3/8	5Y 6/8 to 7.5R 3/8
Achenes per berry	411	283	375
Achene weight (mg)	0.48	0.53	0.48
Marketable yield (gm/plt)	1,403	1,500	1,544
Size	Medium	Medium to large	Large
Predominant shape	Conical	Conical	Conical
Difference in shapes between primary and secondary fruit	Slight	Slight to moderate	Moderate
Band without achenes	Absent or very narrow	Absent or very narrow	Narrow
Unevenness of surface	Absent or very weak	Absent or very weak	Weak to medium
Evenness of color	Even	Even	Slightly uneven to even
Glossiness	Medium to strong	Strong	Strong
Insertion of achenes	Level with surface	Level with surface	Level with surface
Insertion of calyx	Level with to in the basin	Level with to above the fruit	Level with to above the fruit
Attitude of the calyx	Spreading	Spreading to reflexed	Spreading to reflexed
Size of calyx in relation to fruit diameter	Slightly larger	Slightly larger	Same Size to slightly larger
Adherence of calyx	Strong	Strong	Strong
Firmness of skin	Strong	Medium	Strong
Firmness of flesh	Firm	Medium	Medium
Distribution of red color of the flesh	Marginal and central	Marginal and central	Marginal and central
Hollow center expression	Weak to moderate	Moderate to strong	Strong
Flavor	Very good	Very good	Good to very good
Soluble solids (% brix)	9.5	9.2	8.7
Time of first flowering	Medium	Early	Early

TABLE 2-continued

<u>FRUIT CHARACTERISTICS</u>			
Characteristic	'PRESTIGE'	'PS-592' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 9,903)	'PS-4634' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 17,487)
Time of first harvesting	Medium	Early	Early
Harvest period	Early April to early December	Late March to early December	Late March to early December
Type of bearing	Partially everbearing	Partially everbearing	Partially everbearing

TABLE 3

<u>PLANT CHARACTERISTICS</u>			
Characteristic	'PRESTIGE'	'PS-592' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 9,903)	'PS-4634' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 17,487)
Height (cm)	30.2	32.9	33.8
Spread (cm)	36.3	37.1	37.8
Crowns/plant	6.5	8.0	7.3
Size	Medium to large	Large	Large
Habit	Globose	Globose	Globose
Density	Medium	Medium to open	Medium
Vigor	Medium to strong	Strong	Strong

TABLE 4

<u>STOLON CHARACTERISTICS</u>			
Characteristic	'PRESTIGE'	'PS-592' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 9,903)	'PS-4634' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 17,487)
Average number per plant	2.1	2.3	4.0
fruiting field			
Anthocyanin coloration	7.5R 4/8 to 5/8	7.5R 5/6 to 5/4	7.5R 4/8 to 5/8
Anthocyanin intensity	Weak to medium	Weak to medium	Weak to medium
Diameter at bract (mm)	3.5	4.1	3.9
Pubescence	Medium	Medium	Weak to medium

TABLE 5

<u>FOLIAGE CHARACTERISTICS</u>			
Characteristic	'PRESTIGE'	'PS-592' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 9,903)	'PS-4634' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 17,487)
<u>Foliage:</u>			
Color of upper surface	7.5GY 4/4 to 3/4 Medium green	7.5GY 4/4 to 3/4 Medium green	7.5GY 4/4 to 3/4 Medium green
Color of under side	5GY 5/4 to 6/4 Medium grey green	5GY 5/4 to 6/4 Medium grey green	5GY 5/4 to 6/4 Medium grey green
Shape in cross section	Slightly convex to strongly convex	Slightly concave	Slightly concave to flat
Interveinal blistering	Medium	Medium to strong	Medium to strong
Glossiness	Medium	Strong	Medium to strong
Number of leaflets	3 to 4	3	3
Terminal			

TABLE 5-continued

<u>FOLIAGE CHARACTERISTICS</u>			
Characteristic	'PRESTIGE'	'PS-592' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 9,903)	'PS-4634' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 17,487)
<u>Leaflet:</u>			
Length (cm)	9.5	10.9	10.0
Width (cm)	9.2	8.8	7.7
Length/width ratio	1.02	1.23	1.30
	as long as broad	much longer than broad	much longer than broad
Serrations/leaf	21.6	21.3	22.8
Size	Medium to large	Large	Medium to large
Shape of base	Obtuse	Acute	Acute
Shape of teeth	Obtuse	Obtuse	Obtuse
<u>Petiole:</u>			
Length (cm)	22.7	25.1	27.3
Diameter (mm)	4.7	5.1	4.6
Petiolule length (mm)	17.4	13.2	10.0
Pubescence	Moderate	Moderate to sparse	Moderate to sparse
Attitude of hairs	Strongly outward	Strongly outward	Slightly outward
<u>Stipule:</u>			
Length (mm)	19.6	21.9	19.6
Width (mm)	8.5	9.4	9.1
Anthocyanin coloration	Strong	Medium	Strong
Color	Light to medium green	Light to medium green	Medium green

TABLE 6

<u>FRUITING TRUSS CHARACTERISTICS</u>			
Characteristic	'PRESTIGE'	'PS-592' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 9,903)	'PS-4634' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 17,487)
Length (cm)	34.5	35.3	37.5
Position relative to foliage	Level with	Level with to beneath	Level with
Pubescence	Strong	Medium	Medium to weak
Anthocyanin intensity	Very light to none	Light	Very light to none
Attitude at first pick	Prostrate	Prostrate	Prostrate

TABLE 7

<u>FLOWER CHARACTERISTICS</u>			
Characteristic	'PRESTIGE'	'PS-592' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 9,903)	'PS-4634' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 17,487)
Petal color	N 9.5/90%R to N 9.25/84.2%R White	N 9.5/90%R to N 9.25/84.2%R White	N 9.5/90%R to N 9.25/84.2%R White
Corolla diameter (mm)	32.2	33.0	32.7
Calyx diameter (mm)	34.4	36.4	36.3
Petal length (mm)	12.0	12.3	12.6
Petal width (mm)	11.5	12.1	12.5

TABLE 7-continued

FLOWER CHARACTERISTICS			
Characteristic	'PRESTIGE'	'PS-592' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 9,903)	'PS-4634' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 17,487)
Petal length/width ratio	1.04	1.01	1.01
Petals/flower	6.1	6.5	6.3
Sepal length (mm)	12.2	13.0	12.5
Sepal width (mm)	4.5	4.2	4.2
Sepal length/width ratio	2.73	3.11	2.97
Sepals/flower	12.3	13.1	12.9
Size of calyx relative to corolla	Larger	Larger	Larger
Size of inner calyx relative to outer calyx	Smaller	Same size to smaller	Same size to larger
Relative position of petals	Overlapping	Overlapping	Overlapping

TABLE 8

PEST AND DISEASE REACTIONS			
Characteristic	'PRESTIGE'	'PS-592' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 9,903)	'PS-4634' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 17,487)
Two spotted spider mite	Moderately susceptible	Moderately susceptible	Moderately susceptible
Flower thrips	Moderately susceptible	Moderately susceptible	Moderately susceptible
Powdery mildew	Moderately susceptible	Moderately susceptible	Moderately susceptible
Botrytis fruit rot	Moderately susceptible	Moderately susceptible	Moderately susceptible
Angular leaf spot	Moderately susceptible	Moderately susceptible	Susceptible

We claim:

1. A new and distinct strawberry plant named 'PRESTIGE', as herein described and illustrated by the characteristics set forth above.

* * * * *

FIG. 1



FIG. 2

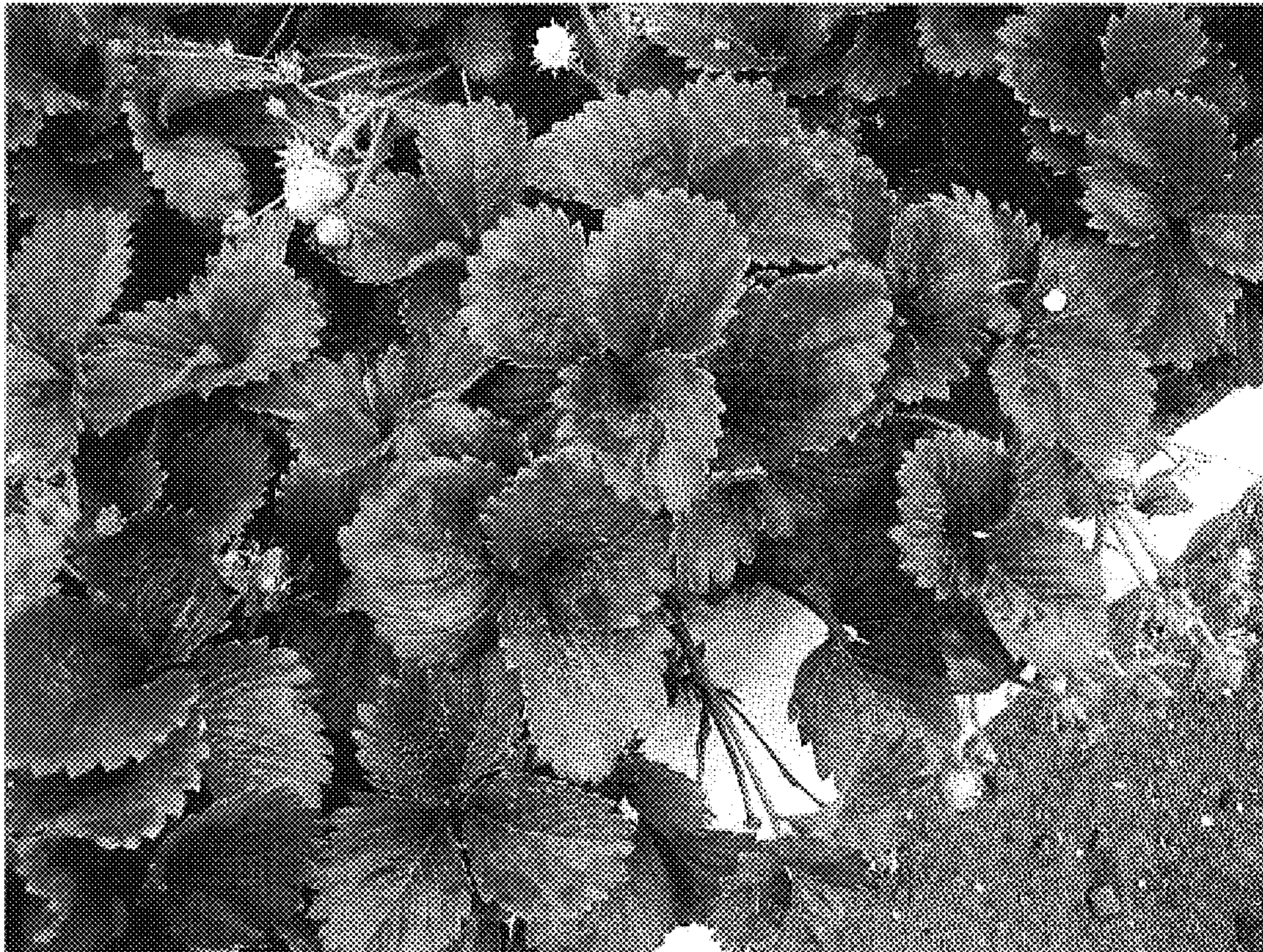


FIG. 3

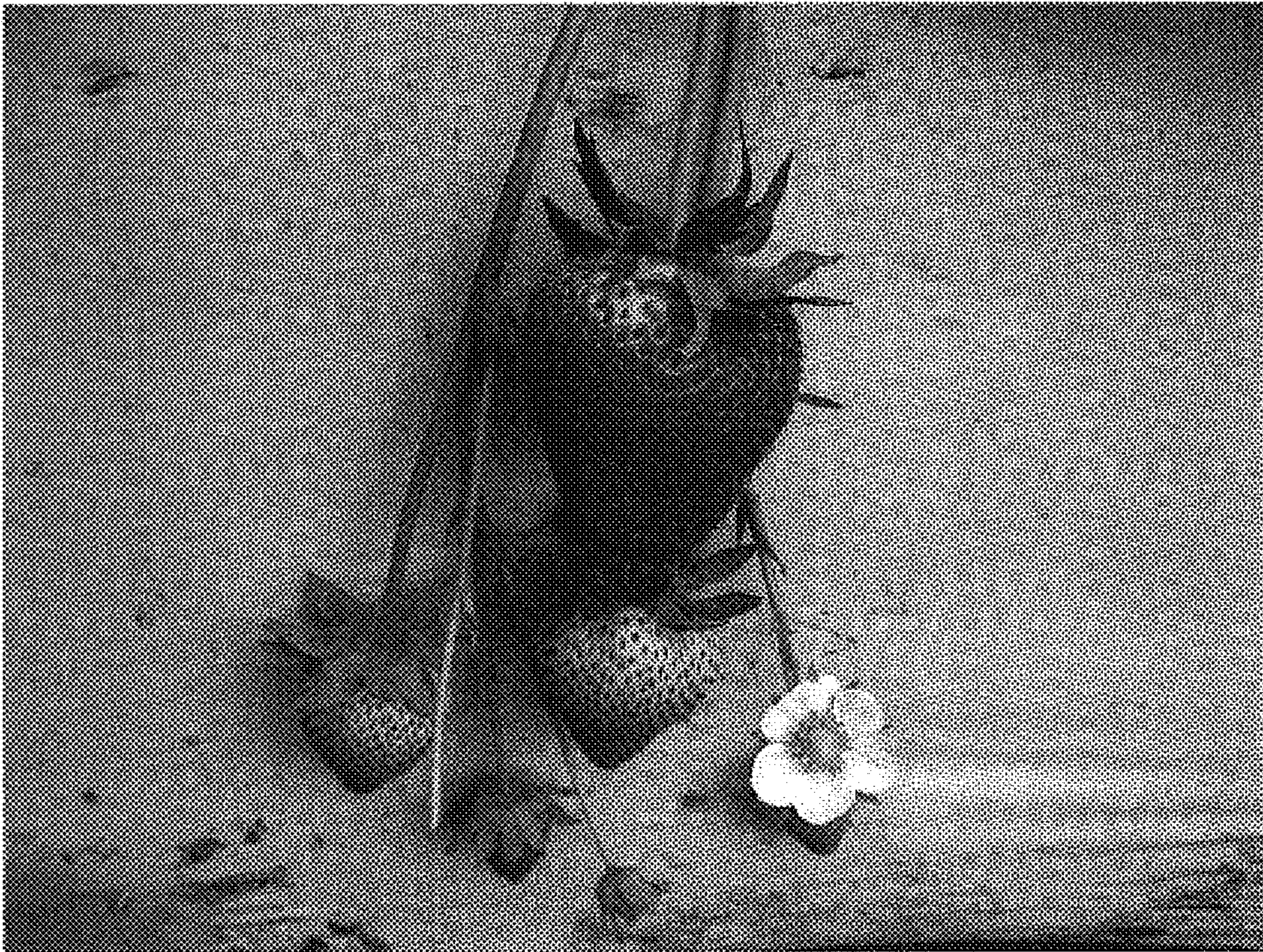


FIG. 4



FIG. 5

