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(54) **CALIBRACHOA PLANT NAMED**
‘SAKCAL096’

(50) Latin Name: ***Calibrachoa* sp.**
Varietal Denomination: **SAKCAL096**

(75) Inventor: **Akinobu UI**, Iwata (JP)

(73) Assignee: **Sakata Seed Corporation**, Yokohama
(JP)

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patent is extended or adjusted under 35
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See application file for complete search history.

Primary Examiner—Kent L Bell

(74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Jondle & Associates, P.C.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

‘SAKCAL096’ is a new *Calibrachoa* cultivar particularly
distinguished by having pink flowers with red eyes, a large
flower size and a creeping growth habit, is disclosed.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Genus and species: *Calibrachoa* sp.
Variety denomination: ‘SAKCAL096’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention comprises a new and distinct cultivar
of *Calibrachoa*, botanically known as *Calibrachoa* sp., and
hereinafter referred to by the cultivar name ‘SAKCAL096.’ It
is characterized by having pink flowers with red eyes, large
flower diameter and creeping plant and growth habit. ‘SAKCAL096’
originated from a hybridization made in 2004 in Kakegawa, Japan.
The female grandparent was a proprietary hybrid *Calibrachoa*
breeding line named ‘465C-2’ (unpatented) and had a red flower
color and a semi-mounding plant and growth habit. The male
grandparent was a proprietary hybrid *Calibrachoa* breeding line
named ‘317G’ (unpatented) characterized by its rose flower color
and creeping plant and growth habit.

In November 2003, ‘465C-2’ and ‘317G’ were crossed and
130 seeds were obtained. In February 2004, the F₁ seed was
sown in the greenhouse, cultivated and plant lines were pro-
duced with flower colors of rose shades and creeping plant
growth habit. Three plant lines were selected within the F₁
plants that had rose colored flowers and a creeping plant
growth habit. The three plant lines were intercrossed and
2,600 seeds were obtained. The exact female and male par-
entage is unknown.

In July 2004, 600 seeds were sown in the greenhouse,
cultivated and plant lines were produced with flower colors of
rose shades, rose-pink shades, and pink with a red eye; all
having a creeping plant growth habit. The line ‘K5-90’ was
selected for its pink with eye flower color, large flower size
and creeping plant growth habit.

In February 2005, line ‘K5-90’ was vegetatively propa-
gated by cuttings, cultivated and evaluated.

In April 2005, line ‘K5-90’ was confirmed to be fixed and
stable. Line ‘K5-90’ was propagated and cultivated again in
July 2005 and February 2006 to reconfirm the line’s stability.
The line was subsequently named ‘SAKCAL096’ and its
unique characteristics were found to reproduce true to type in
successive generations of asexual propagation.

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DESCRIPTION OF THE GENUS *CALIBRACHOA*
LLAVE & LEX.

The genus *Petunia* was originally established in 1803 by A.
L. Jussieu, who described both *P. parviflora* and *P. nyctagini-
flora* as type species. Using a non-horticultural system that
selected the first mentioned species as the type species (lec-
totype), N. L. Britton and H. A. Brown declared *P. parviflora*
as the type species for *Petunia* in 1913.

During the 1980’s and 1990, H. J. Wijsman published a
series of articles regarding the ancestry of *P. hybrida*, the
Garden *Petunia*, and the inter-relationship of several species
classified as *Petunia*. These studies discovered that *P. hybrida*
and its ancestral species, *P. nyctaginiflora* (= *P. axillaris*) and
P. violacea (= *P. integrifolia*), possessed 14 pairs of chromo-
somes while several other species, including *P. parviflora*,
possessed 18 pairs of chromosomes. Since *P. parviflora* was
the lectotype species for the *Petunia* genus, Wijsman and J. H.
de Jong proposed transferring the 14 chromosome species to
the genus *Stimoryne*. Horticulturists opposed reclassifying
the Garden *Petunia* and in 1986, Wijsman proposed the alter-
native of making *P. nyctaginiflora* the lectotype species for
Petunia and transferring the 18 chromosome species to
another genus. The I. N. G. Committee adopted this proposal.
By 1990 Wijsman had transferred several species, including
P. parviflora (= *C. parviflora*) to *Calibrachoa*, originally
established by Llave and Lexarza in 1825. *Calibrachoa*
parviflora (= *C. mexicana* Llave & Lexarza) is now the type
species for the genus *Calibrachoa*.

Classification of the current *Petunia* and *Calibrachoa* spe-
cies is still in progress. New species are also being identified.
Consequently a proper description has not been written for
the *Calibrachoa* genus. *Calibrachoa* can, however, be distin-
guished from *Petunia* based on the higher chromosome num-
ber, chromosome morphology, plant branching habit and type
of flower bud aestivation. Whereas *Petunia* species bear a
flower peduncle and one new stem from a node, *Calibrachoa*
bear a flower peduncle and three stems. *Petunia* species have
a cochlear corolla bud, and a single outermost petal covers the
other four, radially folded and terminally contorted petals.

Calibrachoa flower buds are flat with all five petals linearly folded and the two lower petals forming a cover around the three other petals and fused together.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The following are the most outstanding and distinguishing characteristics of this new cultivar when grown under normal horticultural practices in Kakegawa, Japan.

1. Pink flowers with red eyes;
2. Large flower size; and
3. Creeping growth habit.

DESCRIPTION OF PHOTOGRAPHS

This new *Calibrachoa* plant is illustrated by the accompanying photographs which show the plant's form, foliage and flowers. The colors shown are as true as can be reasonably obtained by conventional photographic procedures.

FIG. 1 shows overall plant habit.

FIG. 2 shows the mature flowers.

DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW CULTIVAR

The following detailed description sets forth the distinctive characteristics of 'SAKCAL096'. The data which define these characteristics were collected from asexual reproductions carried out in Salinas, Calif. The detailed description was taken from plants grown under greenhouse conditions for approximately 4 months from stick date. Color references are to The R.H.S. Colour Chart of The Royal Horticultural Society of London (R.H.S.), 4th Edition.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

Classification:

Family.—Solanaceae.

Species.—*Calibrachoa* sp.

Common name.—*Calibrachoa*.

Plant description:

Life cycle.—Tender perennial.

Form.—Branching.

Habit.—Creeping.

Height (from soil line to top of foliage).—17.0 cm to 18.0 cm.

Spread.—55.0 cm to 56.0 cm.

Propagation:

Type cuttings.—Vegetative cuttings.

Time to produce a rooted cutting.—6 weeks.

Time to bloom from propagation.—10 weeks.

Environmental conditions for plant growth: The terminal 1.0 to 1.5 inches of an actively growing stem was excised. The vegetative cuttings were propagated in five to six weeks. The base of the cuttings were dipped for 1 to 2 seconds in a 1:9 solution of DIP 'N GROW (1 solution: 9 water) root inducing solution immediately prior to sticking into the cell trays. Cuttings were stuck into plastic cell trays having 98 cells, and containing a moistened peat moss-based growing medium. The cuttings were misted with water from overhead for 10 seconds every 30 minutes until sufficient roots were formed. Rooted cuttings were transplanted and grown in 20 cm diameter plastic pots in a glass greenhouse located in Salinas, Calif. Pots contained a peat moss-based growing medium. Soluble fertilizer containing

20% nitrogen, 10% phosphorus and 20% potassium was applied once a day or every other day by overhead irrigation. Pots were top-dressed with a dry, slow release fertilizer containing 20% nitrogen, 10% phosphorus and 18% potassium. The typical average air temperature was 24° C.

Stems:

Stem color.—R.H.S. 143C (Green).

Anthocyanin color.—R.H.S. N187A (Greyed-purple).

Pubescence.—Moderate.

Pubescence color.—R.H.S. N155A (White).

Stem description.—Dull, circular cross-section.

Stem diameter.—0.2 cm.

Stem length.—14.0 cm to 15.0 cm.

Internode length.—1.0 cm.

Leaves:

Arrangement.—Alternate.

Shape.—Elliptic.

Apex.—Obtuse.

Base.—Attenuate.

Attachment.—Decurrent.

Margin.—Entire.

Surface.—Dull, slight pubescence.

Surface pubescence.—Slight.

Pubescence color.—R.H.S. N 155A (White).

Venation.—Pinnate.

Length.—2.5 cm.

Width.—0.9 cm.

Color (both surfaces).—R.H.S. 139A (Green).

Fragrance.—Absent.

Flowers:

Flowering habit.—Indeterminate.

Flower type.—Solitary.

Flowering requirements.—Will flower so long as day length is greater than 12 hours and temperature exceeds 13° C.

Duration of flowers.—About 5 days.

Corolla.—5 petals, fused.

Corolla shape.—The flowers are funnel shaped with five fissures and a shallow, yet prominent, indentation of the petal tip at the midvein.

Fragrance.—Absent.

Flower buds:

Surface.—Pubescent.

Length.—2.5 cm.

Diameter.—1.0 cm.

Shape.—Ovate.

Color.—R.H.S. 79C (Purple) with R.H.S. N187A (Greyed-purple) veins

Peduncle.—Length: 2.0 cm. Diameter: 0.1 cm. Color: R.H.S. 143C (Green). Texture: Dull, slight pubescence. Pubescence color: R.H.S. N155A (White).

Flower description:

Flower depth.—0.5 cm.

Flower tube length.—2.0 cm.

Flower tube diameter.—0.8 cm.

Flower diameter.—5.0 cm.

Calyx.—5 sepals, free.

Sepals.—Shape: Elliptical. Apex: Obtuse. Margin: Entire. Sepal color (both surfaces): R.H.S. 139A (Green).

Petals.—Shape: Bilabiate, fused; shallow, yet prominent indentation of the petal tip, mid-vein. Length: 1.5 cm.

Width: 1.5 cm. Apex: Truncate. Margin: Entire. Texture: Glabrous. Color: Lobe color: Upper lobe: R.H.S. 54B (Red) with R.H.S. N79B (Purple) vein and R.H.S. N187A (Greyed-purple) ring around top of corolla tube. Lower tube: R.H.S. 62B (Red-purple) with R.H.S. 79A. (Purple) veins. Corolla tube color: Inner: R.H.S. 9A (Yellow). Outer: R.H.S. 5C (Yellow) with R.H.S. 79A (Purple) veins.

Fragrance.—Absent.

Reproductive organs:

Stamen number.—5, free.

Stamen color.—R.H.S. 144D (Yellow-green).

Pollen color.—R.H.S. 9A (Yellow).

Ovary.—Superior.

Placenta arrangement.—Central.

Pistil number.—1 (per inflorescence).

Pistil length.—0.8 cm.

Stigma color.—R.H.S. 144B (Yellow-green).

Style length.—1.0 cm.

Style color.—R.H.S. 144C (Yellow-green).

Fruit/seed set: No fruit or seeds produced.

Disease and insect resistance: Excellent resistance to rain, heat and drought. Will not tolerate temperature below 10° C. Plants are susceptible to *Botrytis*, powdery mildew, various stem and root rots, and certain viruses, like Tobacco Mosaic Virus and Impatiens Necrotic Spotted Virus. Plants can be infested with aphids, leafminer, whitefly and various *Lepidoptera*.

Comparison with Parental Lines and Known Cultivars

‘SAKCAL096’ is distinguished from its grandparents mainly by flower color and plant growth habit as shown in Table 1 below.

TABLE 1

Characteristic	‘SAKCAL096’	Female Grandparent: ‘465C-2’	Male Grandparent: ‘317G’
Flower color	Pink with red eye	Red	Rose
Plant growth habit	Creeping	Semi-mounded	Creeping

Calibrachoa ‘SAKCAL096’ is a distinct variety of *Calibrachoa* due to its pink flowers with red eyes, large flower diameter and creeping growth habit. ‘SAKCAL096’ is most similar to the variety ‘USCALI212-1’ (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 18,421) however, there are differences in the flower petal color, flower size and plant growth habit as described in the table below (color references are to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 4th edition):

TABLE 2

Characteristic	‘SAKCAL096’	‘USCALI212-1’
Petal color, upper surface	RHS 54B (Red) with RHS N79B (Purple) Vein and RHS N187A (Greyed-Purple) ring around top of corolla tube	RHS 65B-65C (Red-Purple), RHS 64B (Red-Purple) towards throat with 64C (Red-Purple) midvein
Petal color, lower surface	RHS 62B (Red-Purple) with RHS 79A (Purple) veins	RHS 65D (Red-Purple) with RHS 64C (Red-Purple) midvein
Flower size (diameter)	5.0 cm.	2.5 cm.
Plant growth habit	Creeping	Mounding

We claim:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Calibrachoa* plant as shown and described herein.

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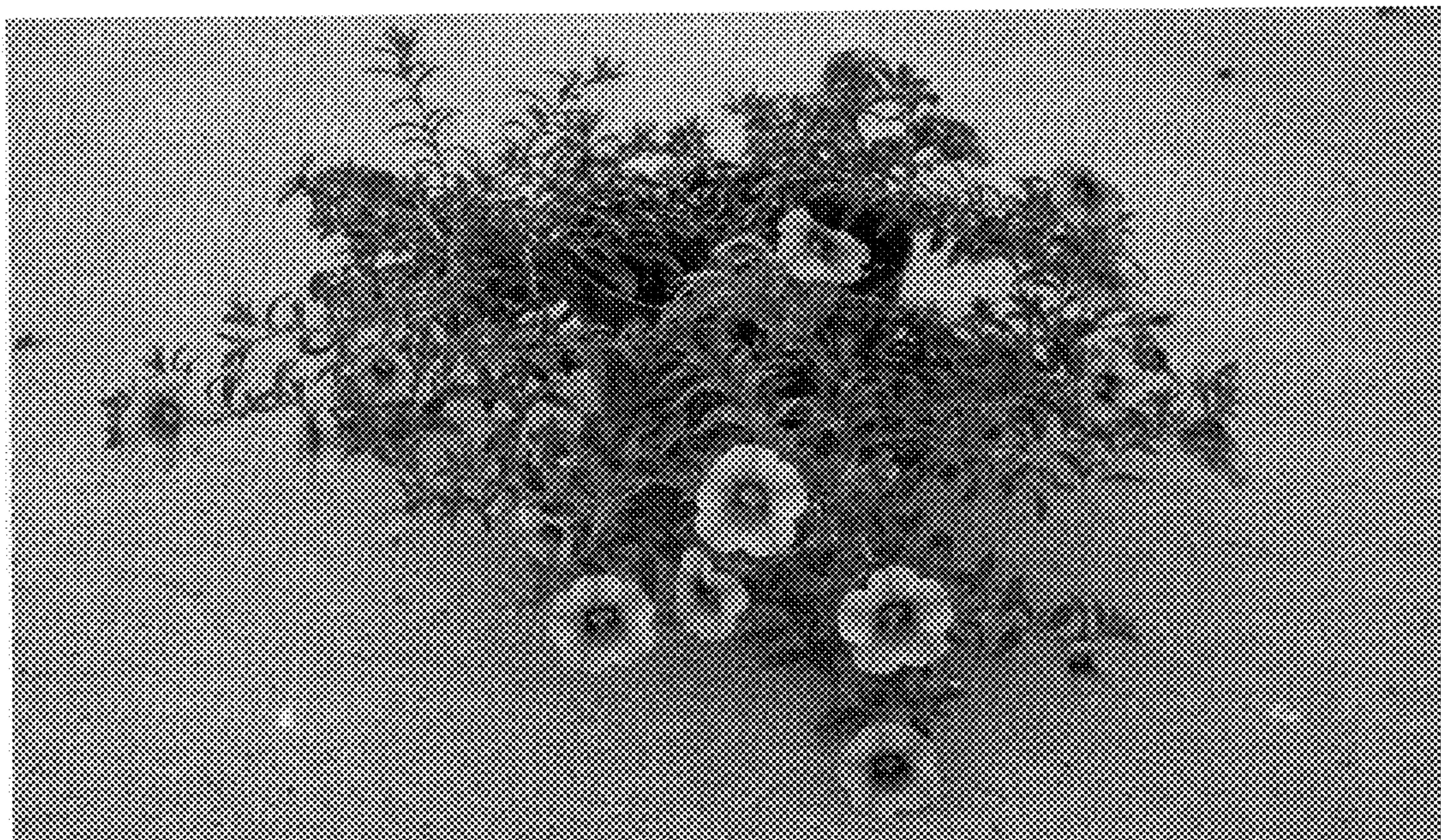


Fig. 1

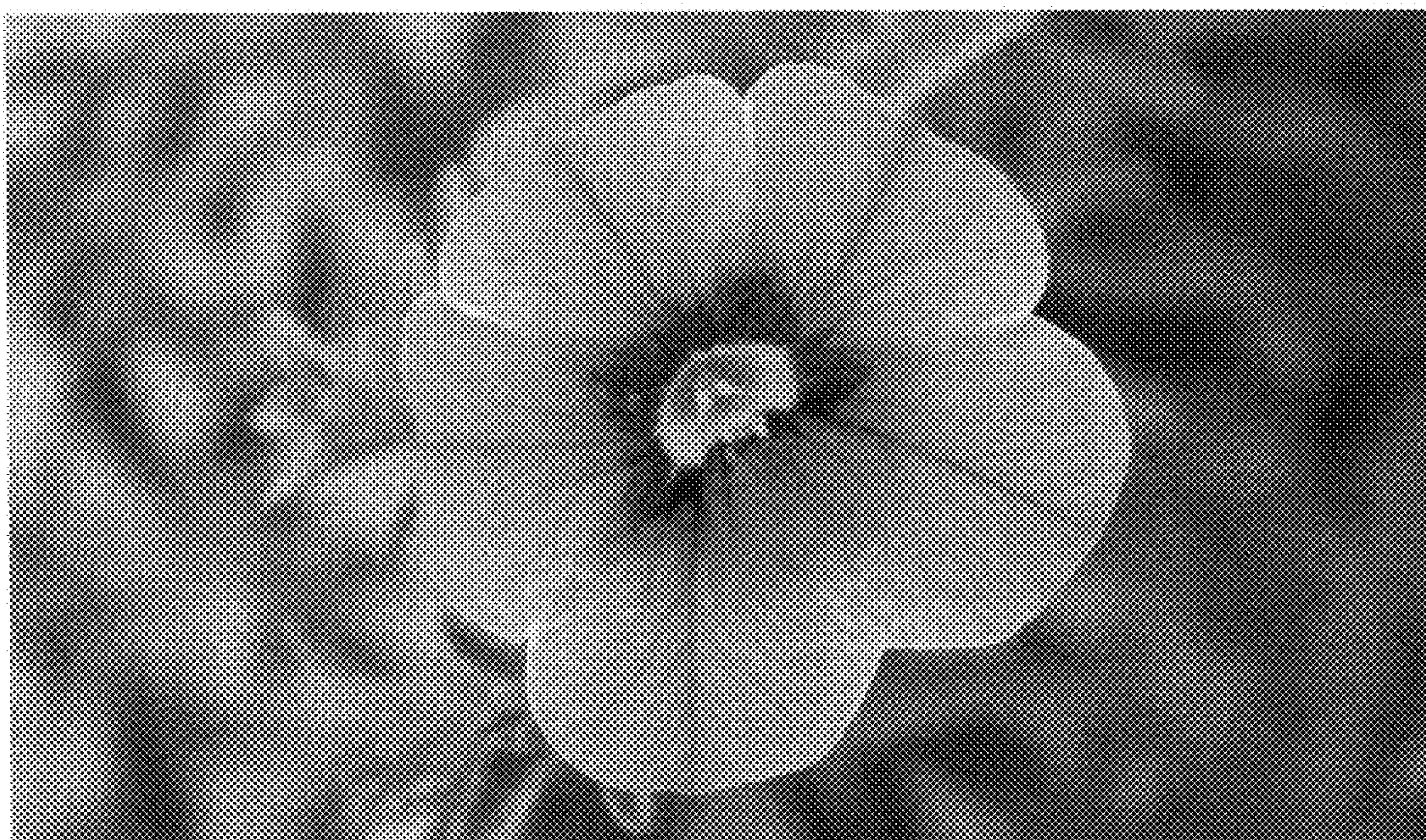


Fig. 2