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(54) **NEW GUINEA *IMPATIENS* PLANT NAMED
'VISINFWHIIMP'**

(50) Latin Name: *Impatiens hawkeri*
Varietal Denomination: **Visinfwhiimp**

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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.

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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of New Guinea *Impatiens* plant named 'Visinfwhiimp', characterized by its compact, upright, outwardly spreading and mounded plant habit; freely branching habit; dense and bushy growth habit; vigorous growth habit; dark green-colored leaves; and numerous white-colored flowers that are positioned above and beyond the foliage.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Botanical designation: *Impatiens hawkeri*.
Cultivar denomination: 'Visinfwhiimp'.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of New Guinea *Impatiens* plant, botanically known as *Impatiens hawkeri*, and hereinafter referred to by the name 'Visinfwhiimp'.

The new *Impatiens* plant is a product of a planned breeding program conducted by the Inventor in Alajuela, Costa Rica. The objective of the breeding program was to develop new vigorous and freely branching *Impatiens* plants with numerous large flowers and attractive foliage and flower coloration.

The new *Impatiens* plant originated from a cross-pollination made by the Inventor in November, 2004, of a proprietary selection of *Impatiens hawkeri* identified as code number 03-303, not patented, as the female, or seed, parent with a proprietary selection of the *Impatiens hawkeri* identified as code number 01-217, not patented, as the male, or pollen, parent. The new *Impatiens* plant was discovered and selected by the Inventor as a flowering plant within the progeny of the stated cross-pollination in a controlled greenhouse environment in Alajuela, Costa Rica in April, 2005.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Impatiens* plant by terminal cuttings propagated in a controlled greenhouse environment in Alajuela, Costa Rica since June, 2005 has shown that the unique features of this new *Impatiens* plant are stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations of asexual reproduction.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Plants of the new *Impatiens* have not been observed under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in environment such as temperature and light intensity, without, however, any variance in genotype.

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and are determined to be the unique characteristics of 'Visinfwhiimp'. These characteristics in combination distinguish 'Visinfwhiimp' as a new and distinct cultivar of New Guinea *Impatiens*:

1. Compact, upright, outwardly spreading and mounded plant habit.

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2. Freely branching habit; dense and bushy growth habit.
3. Vigorous growth habit.
4. Dark green-colored leaves.
5. Numerous white-colored flowers that are positioned above and beyond the foliage.

Plants of the new *Impatiens* differ primarily from plants of the female parent selection in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Impatiens* are more freely branching than plants of the female parent selection.
2. Plants of the new *Impatiens* have darker green-colored leaves than plants of the female parent selection.

Plants of the new *Impatiens* differ primarily from plants of the male parent selection in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Impatiens* have larger flowers than plants of the male parent selection.
2. Plants of the new *Impatiens* have more rounded flowers than plants of the male parent selection.

Plants of the new *Impatiens* can be compared to plants of New Guinea *Impatiens* 'Visinfwhi', disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 16,149. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Gensingen, Germany, plants of the new *Impatiens* differed primarily from plants of 'Visinfwhi' in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Impatiens* were slightly larger than plants of 'Visinfwhi'.
2. Plants of the new *Impatiens* were more freely branching than plants of 'Visinfwhi'.
3. Plants of the new *Impatiens* had darker green-colored leaves than plants of 'Visinfwhi'.
4. Plants of the new *Impatiens* had fewer and smaller flowers than plants of 'Visinfwhi'.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying photographs illustrate the overall appearance of the new *Impatiens* plant. The 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 *Impatiens*.

The photograph at the bottom of the sheet comprises a side perspective view of a typical flowering plant of 'Visinfwhiimp' grown in a container.

The photograph at the top of the sheet is a close-up view of typical flowers and leaves of 'Visinfwhiimp'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The aforementioned photographs and following observations and measurements describe plants grown in Bonsall, Calif. during the late summer and early autumn in a polyethylene-covered greenhouse and under conditions and practices which approximate those generally used in commercial New Guinea *Impatiens* production. During the production of the plants, day temperatures ranged from 16° C. to 38° C. and night temperatures ranged from 16° C. to 24° C. Measurements and numerical values represent averages for typical flowering plants. Single plants were grown in one-gallon containers and had been growing for 39 weeks when the photographs and the detailed description were taken. 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: *Impatiens hawkeri* 'Visinfwhiimp'.
Parentage:

Female, or seed, parent.—Proprietary selection of *Impatiens hawkeri* identified as code number 03-303, not patented.

Male, or pollen parent.—Proprietary selection of *Impatiens hawkeri* identified as code number 01-217, not patented.

Propagation:

Type.—Vegetative cuttings.

Time to initiate roots, summer.—About 14 days at 20° C. to 22° C.

Time to initiate roots, winter.—About 18 days at 19° C. to 21° C.

Time to produce a rooted young plant, summer.—About 18 days at 20° C. to 22° C.

Time to produce a rooted young plant, winter.—About 21 days at 19° C. to 21° C.

Root description.—Fibrous, thick; white in color.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching; dense.

Plant description:

Plant form.—Compact, upright, outwardly spreading and mounded plant habit.

Growth and branching habit.—Vigorous and freely branching habit; about seven to eight lateral branches developing at the base; dense and bushy growth habit; pinching, that is, removal of the terminal apices, is typically not required, but will enhance branching.

Plant height.—About 30 cm.

Plant diameter or spread.—About 53 cm.

Lateral branches.—Length: About 26 cm. Diameter: About 1.2 cm. Internode length: About 2.6 cm to 3 cm. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: Close to 146A.

Foliage description:

Arrangement.—Opposite or in whorls, simple.

Length.—About 9.2 cm.

Width.—About 3.2 cm.

Shape.—Elliptical.

Apex.—Acuminate.

Base.—Attenuate.

Margin.—Serrulate with ciliation.

Texture, upper and lower surfaces.—Smooth, glabrous.

Venation pattern.—Pinnate.

Color.—Developing leaves, upper surface: Close to N137A. Developing leaves, lower surface: Close to 146B. Fully expanded leaves, upper surface: Darker than 147A; mid-vein, close to 147C; lateral venation, close to 147B. Fully expanded leaves, lower surface: Close to 147B; venation, close to 147B.

Petiole.—Length: About 1.5 cm. Diameter: About 3 mm.

Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous.

Color, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 145B.

Flower description:

Flower type and flowering habit.—Single axillary flowers; freely flowering habit; usually about eight to ten flowers and flower buds per lateral branch; flowers positioned above the foliage and typically face upright to outwardly.

Flower longevity.—Flowers last about one week under greenhouse conditions; petals self-cleaning, gynoecium persistent.

Fragrance.—Not detected.

Natural flowering season.—Year-round under greenhouse conditions; in the garden, flowering from spring until fall in California; plants begin flowering about six to eight weeks after planting.

Flower size.—Diameter: About 5 cm by 5.2 cm. Depth: About 3 cm.

Flower buds.—Length: About 2.2 cm. Diameter: About 1.4 cm. Shape: Ovoid; pointed. Color: Close to NN155D.

Petals.—Quantity/arrangement: Five per flower in a single whorl. Length, banner petal: About 2.5 cm. Length, lateral petals: About 2.4 cm. Length, lower petals: About 3 cm. Width, banner petal: About 4.6 cm. Width, lateral petals: About 3.2 cm. Width, lower petals: About 3.2 cm. Shape: Cordate. Apex: Emarginate to cordate. Base: Acute. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous; velvety. Color: When opening, upper and lower surfaces: Close to NN155D. Fully opened, upper and lower surfaces: Close to NN155D; color does not fade with development.

Sepals.—Quantity/arrangement: Three; one modified into an elongated spur. Length: About 9 mm. Width: About 5 mm. Shape: Elliptical. Apex: Acuminate. Base: Obtuse. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color, upper surface: Close to 192D tinted with close to 192B. Color, lower surface: Close to 192D tinted with close to 193A. Spur length: About 4.8 cm. Spur diameter: At flower, about 3 mm; at apex, less than 1 mm. Spur texture: Smooth, glabrous. Spur color: Close to 145C to 145D.

Peduncles.—Length: About 4.4 cm. Diameter: About 2 mm. Angle: About 45° from vertical. Strength: Strong. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: Close to 147C.

Reproductive organs.—Stamens: Quantity: Five fused at anthers; filaments free. Anther size: About 3 mm by 4 mm. Anther color: Close to 157C. Pollen amount: Moderate. Pollen color: Close to 11D. Pistils: Quantity per flower: One. Pistil length: About 5 mm. Stigma shape: Rounded. Stigma color: Close to 145D. Style color: Close to 145D. Ovary color: Close to 146D.

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

Disease/pest resistance: Plants of the new *Impatiens* have not been observed to be resistant to pathogens and pests common to New Guinea *Impatiens*.

Temperature tolerance: Plants of the new *Impatiens* have been observed to tolerate temperatures from about 16° C. to about 30° C.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct New Guinea *Impatiens* plant named 'Visinfwhiimp' as illustrated and described.

