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CALIBRACHOA PLANT NAMED **'KLECA08170'**

(50)Latin Name: *Calibrachoa* hybrid Varietal Denomination: **KLECA08170**

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ABSTRACT (57)

A new Calibrachoa plant named 'KLECA08170' particularly distinguished by light blue flowers, a very early flowering period with continuous flowering, and a flat, trailing growth habit, is disclosed.

1 Drawing Sheet

Genus and species: Calibrachoa hybrid. Variety denomination: 'KLECA08170'.

BACKGROUND OF THE NEW PLANT

The present invention comprises a new and distinct cultivar of Calibrachoa, botanically known as Calibrachoa hybrid and hereinafter referred to by the cultivar name 'KLECA08170'. The new cultivar originated from a hybridization made in Summer 2004 in Stuttgart, Germany. The female parent was the proprietary Calibrachoa plant 'W 329' (unpatented), while the male parent was the proprietary Calibrachoa plant 'W 220' (unpatented).

The new cultivar was first propagated in May 2005 in Stuttgart, Germany and has been asexually reproduced by vegetative cuttings in Stuttgart, Germany for more than 40 generations. The present invention has been found to retain its distinctive characteristics through successive asexual propagations.

Plant Breeder's Rights for this cultivar have not been applied for. 'KLECA08170' has not been made publicly available more than one year prior to the filing date of this application.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

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

- 1. Light blue flowers;
- 2. A very early flowering period with continuous flowering; and
- 3. A flat, trailing growth habit.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH

This new Calibrachoa plant is illustrated by the accompanying photograph which shows flowers and foliage of the 40 Stems: plant; the colors shown are as true as can be reasonably obtained by conventional photographic procedures.

The photograph is of a five-month-old *Calibrachoa* plant, grown in a greenhouse in Stuttgart, Germany, between January and May 2008.

DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW CULTIVAR

The following detailed descriptions set forth the distinctive characteristics of 'KLECA08170'. The data which defines these characteristics were collected from asexual reproductions carried out in Stuttgart, Germany. The plant history was taken on five-month-old plants which were planted as rooted cuttings in 11-cm pots between January and May 2008 and then grown in a greenhouse. The plants had one terminal pinch one week after potting. Color readings were taken under natural light. Color references are primarily to The R.H.S. Colour Chart of The Royal Horticultural Society of London (R.H.S.) (2001).

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW PLANT

Classification:

Family.—Solanaceae.

Botanical.—Calibrachoa hybrid.

Common.—Calibrachoa.

Parentage:

Female.—The proprietary Calibrachoa plant 'W 329' (unpatented).

Male.—The proprietary Calibrachoa plant 'W 220' (unpatented).

Growth:

Habit.—Flat-trailing.

Height (measured from the top of the soil).—6.0 cm.

Width (horizontal plant diameter).—18.0 cm.

Time to produce a finished flowering plant.—10 weeks. Outdoor plant performance.—Continuous flowering.

Time to initiate and develop roots.—15 days.

Root description.—Moderate density, freely branching with white roots.

Length of basal branches.—9.0 cm. *Internode length.*—1.0 cm to 2.2 cm.

Diameter of branches (from midpoint).—0.2 cm to 0.7 cm.

Stem color.—RHS 145A.

Texture.—Smooth.

Anthocyanin.—Absent.

Pedicel.—Color: RHS 144B. Length: 1.6 cm. Diameter: 0.2 cm. Texture: Smooth.

Leaves:

Arrangement.—Alternate.

Size.—Length: 0.8 cm to 2.8 cm. Width: 0.4 cm to 0.7 10 cm.

Shape.—Lanceolate to elliptic.

Apex.—Broadly acute.

Base.—Attenuate.

Margin.—Entire.

Color.—Immature and mature: Upper surface: RHS 138A. Lower surface: RHS 138B.

Texture (both surfaces).—Smooth.

Venation.—Pinnate.

Venation color (both surfaces).—RHS 144A.

Petioles.—Absent.

Flower bud:

Shape.—Irregular to oblong.

Size.—Length: 1.8 cm. Diameter: 0.5 cm.

Color at tight bud.—RHS 79D.

Inflorescence:

Blooming habit.—Continuous flowering during summertime.

Inflorescence type.—Single.

Floret type.—Funnel-shaped.

Lastingness of individual blooms on the plant.—5 days. Fragrance.—Absent.

Flowers:

Immature flower.—Diameter: Horizontal: 2.8 cm. Vertical: 2.8 cm. Color: Upper surface: RHS 86D. Lower 35 medium branching. surface: RHS 85B.

Mature flower.—Diameter: Horizontal: 3.0 cm. Vertical: 2.8 cm. Color: Upper surface: RHS 85C. Lower surface: RHS 85B.

Corolla tube.—Color inside: RHS 4B. Color outside: 40 RHS 3C. Tube length: 1.5 cm. Outside texture: Moderate. Inside texture: Smooth.

Petals.—Apex: Obverse. Base: Open and fused into the tube. Margin: Entire. Waviness of petals: Weak. Lobation: Weak. Texture (both surfaces): Smooth.

Sepals.—Calyx (form): Rosette. Shape: Lanceolate to elliptic. Apex: Acute. Base: Tube fused into the base. Margin: Entire. Length: 1.5 cm. Width: 0.3 cm. Color: Upper surface: RHS 138A. Lower surface: RHS 138B. Texture (both surfaces): Smooth.

Reproductive organs:

Stamens.—Number: 5. Filament color: RHS 154A. Filament length: 0.7 cm. Filament diameter: 0.1 cm. Pollen color: RHS 11A. Pollen quantity: Moderate.

Pistils.—Number: 1. Length: 0.3 cm. Diameter: 0.2 cm. Stigma color: RHS 149A. Style color: RHS 149A.

Fruit and seed set: No seed set observed.

Disease and insect resistance: No particular resistance or susceptibility has been observed.

COMPARISON WITH PARENTAL AND COMMERCIAL CULTIVARS

'KLECA08170' differs from the female parent 'W 329' (unpatented) in that 'KLECA08170' has larger-sized flowers and earlier flowering, while 'W 329' has smaller-sized flowers and later flowering.

'KLECA08170' differs from the male parent 'W 220' in that 'KLECA08170' has light blue flowers and a flat, trailing growth habit, while 'W 220' has lavender flowers and a compact growth habit.

'KLECA08170' differs from the commercial cultivar 'MINIFAMOUS Light Blue' (unpatented) in that 'KLECA08170' has very early flowering and good branching, while 'MINIFAMOUS Light Blue' has late flowering and medium branching.

We claim:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Calibrachoa* plant named 'KLECA08170' as shown and described herein.

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