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(54) **OSTEOSPERMUM PLANT NAMED**
'SAKOST3442'

(50) Latin Name: *Osteospermum hybrida*
Varietal Denomination: **'SAKOST3442'**

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patent is extended or adjusted under 35
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(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./360**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** **Plt./360**
See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new *Osteospermum* plant particularly distinguished by
having flowers with a white ray floret color and blue disc
florets, medium flower size, flowers that stay open under low
light conditions and mounded cascading plant habit, is dis-
closed.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Genus and species:

Osteospermum hybrida.

Variety denomination: **'SAKOST3442'**.

BACKGROUND OF THE NEW PLANT

The present invention comprises a new and distinct cultivar
of *Osteospermum*, botanically known as *Osteospermum*
hybrida, and hereinafter referred to by the cultivar name
SAKOST3442'. SAKOST3442' originated from a hybridiza-
tion of proprietary hybrid *Osteospermum* breeding lines
'98071' and '98064' in Aabyhoej, Denmark. The proprietary
female parent, '98071' (unpatented) has a white flower color
and a cascading plant habit. The proprietary male parent,
'98064' (unpatented) has a dark pink flower color and a com-
pact and semi-cascading plant habit.

In May 2001, the two *Osteospermum* lines '98071' and
'98064' were crossed and seeds were obtained. The seeds
were sown and 300 plants were grown in pots for evaluation.
Out of 300 F₁ lines, plant number 27 which has a white ray
floret color with blue disc florets and a mounded cascading
plant habit was selected.

In February 2002, plant number 27 was vegetatively propa-
gated by cuttings and re-evaluated in an open field and a
greenhouse. Plant number 27 was given the breeder code
number '202187' and the stability of the distinct characteris-
tics of this variety was confirmed.

In spring 2005, plants were evaluated again in pots and in
an open field. The selection was named 'SAKOST3442' and
was found to reproduce true to type in successive generations
of asexual propagation.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

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

1. White ray floret color with blue disc florets
2. Medium flower size;
3. Flowers that stay open under low light conditions; and
4. Mounded, cascading growth habit.

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DESCRIPTION OF PHOTOGRAPHS

This new *Osteospermum* plant is illustrated by the accom-
panying photographs which show the plant's overall plant
habit including form, foliage and flowers. The photographs
are of a plant grown four and a half months from transplant
date and five and a half months from stick date into 8-inch
pots from rooted cuttings in Salinas, Calif. in the spring of
2008. The colors shown are as true as can be reasonably
obtained by conventional photographic procedures.

FIG. 1 shows overall plant habit of the plant grown in a pot.
FIG. 2 shows the mature inflorescence of the plant.

DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW CULTIVAR

The following detailed descriptions set forth the distinctive
characteristics of 'SAKOST3442'. The data which define
these characteristics were collected from asexual reproduc-
tions carried out in Salinas, Calif. Data was collected on
plants grown approximately four and a half months from
transplant date and five and a half months from stick date into
8-inch pots under greenhouse conditions in Salinas, Califor-
nia in the spring of 2008. Color references are to the RHS
Colour Chart of The Royal Horticultural Society of London
(RHS), 4th edition.

DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW PLANT

Classification:

Family.—Compositae.

Botanical.—*Osteospermum hybrida*.

Common.—*Osteospermum*, Cape Daisy, South African
Daisy.

Parentage:

Female parent.—A hybrid proprietary *Osteospermum*
line '98071', having a white flower color and a cas-
cading plant habit (unpatented).

Male parent.—A hybrid proprietary *Osteospermum* line
'98064', having a dark pink flower color and a com-
pact and semi-cascading plant habit (unpatented).

Growth:

Time to produce a rooted cutting.—Cuttings will colo-
nize a 2.5 cm diameter by 2.5 cm tall greenhouse tray

cell with peat-based plant media in approximately four weeks. Cuttings are dipped in a normal dilution (1:9) of Dip 'N Grow root-inducing solution in water. The trays are misted hourly during rooting.

Environmental conditions for plant growth.—Rooted cuttings are transplanted to pots with a 16 cm diameter, one plant per pot. Peat-based growing media is used. The pots are watered using a 150-200 ppm fertilizer solution using 18-8-18 fertilizer. The soil is allowed to dry between watering. During the first few weeks after transplanting the plants should have evening temperatures around 15° -18° C. for good root growth. When plants reach 7.5-10 cm in height they are pinched back to 5-6 leaves to promote branching. Spring and summer daytime high temperatures in Salinas, Calif., where the data was collected, range from 16° -25° C.

Time to bloom from propagation.—Approximately four weeks when rooted vegetative cuttings are transferred to a 5-inch diameter pot. Flowering season is all year in the United States. Vernalization is not required to induce flowering.

Plant description:

Habit.—Trailing, cascading.

Life cycle.—Perennial.

Form.—Spreading, branching.

Height (from soil line to first node).—2.0 cm.

Height (from soil line to top of foliage).—12.0 cm.

Width.—90.0 cm.

Stems:

General.—Few.

Shape.—Circular in cross section.

Stem length (total).—15.0 cm.

Diameter.—0.4 cm.

Internode length.—2.0 cm.

Color.—RHS 144A (Yellow-green) and RSH 187A (Greyed-purple).

Pubescence.—Absent.

Anthocyanin color.—Very slight, RHS N187A (Greyed-purple).

Branches:

General.—Circular in cross section.

Number of main branches.—1.

Total number of branches.—12.

Length.—40.0 cm, approximately 2.0 cm from soil line to first node, 2.0 cm between first and second nodes.

Diameter.—0.5 cm.

Internode length.—4.0 cm.

Color.—RHS 144A (Yellow-green) and RSH 187A (Greyed-purple).

Anthocyanin color.—RHS 187A (Greyed-purple).

Pubescence.—Absent.

Leaves:

Arrangement.—Alternate.

Shape.—Oblanceolate, curled.

Apex.—Acute.

Base.—Attenuate.

Margin.—Serrate.

Venation.—Pinnate.

Surface (both surfaces).—Dull.

Surface pubescence (both surfaces).—Very slight, mainly around edge.

Pubescence color.—RHS N155A (White).

Attachment.—Decurrent.

Length.—9.0 cm.

Width.—3.5 cm.

Thickness.—Less than 0.1 cm.

Color.—Upper surface: RHS 137A (Green) Lower surface: RHS 137C (Green).

Venation color.—Upper surface: RHS 143A (Green) Lower surface: RHS 143B (Green).

Inflorescence:

Number per plant.—3.

Type.—Capitulum (head); disc florets are perfect and ray florets are carpellate.

Flowering habit.—Determinate.

Lastingness of flowers.—3 to 4 days.

Fragrance.—None.

Seed production.—None.

Diameter.—8.0 cm.

Depth.—0.5 cm.

Petal number.—30 per inflorescence.

Disc diameter.—1.5 cm.

Disc floret number.—120 to 140 per inflorescence.

Peduncle length.—9.0 cm from inflorescence to first node.

Peduncle diameter.—0.3 cm.

Peduncle color.—RHS 143C (Green).

Peduncle texture.—Dull, very slight pubescence.

Phyllaries.—Arrangement: 22 per inflorescence, free, arranged symmetrically Length: 1.2 cm Width: 0.2 cm Apex: Acute Margin: Entire Shape: Linear, acute Color (Both surfaces): RHS 141A (Green).

Ray florets (ligules):

Corolla.—One petal per ray floret; only the outer row of florets are the ray florets.

Number of ray florets per inflorescence.—30.

Length.—3.0 cm.

Width.—0.8 cm.

Shape.—Lanceolate.

Apex.—Acute.

Margin.—Entire.

Color.—Upper surface: RHS N155A (White) with RHS 77B (Purple) at base Lower surface: RHS 76D (Purple) with RHS N77D (Purple) streaks.

Pubescence.—Glabrous.

Disc florets:

Bud Color.—RHS 93A (Violet-blue).

Shape.—Tubular.

Apex.—Pointed.

Surface.—Dull, pubescent.

Size.—Length: 0.6 cm Width: 0.1 cm.

Reproductive organs:

Ovary.—Superior in ray florets.

Pistil form.—One style with two stigma branches in ray florets.

Pistil length.—0.2 cm in ray florets.

Stigma color.—RHS 187A (Greyed-purple) at tip of branches and RHS 155A (White) at center to base in ray florets.

Style color.—RHS 155A (White) in ray florets

Ovary.—Superior in disc florets.

Pistil form.—One style with two stigma branches in disc florets.

Stamens.—5, fused into a single tube in disc florets.

Anther color.—RHS 187A (Greyed-purple) in disc florets.

Pollen color.—RHS 13A (Yellow) in disc florets.

Filament color.—RHS 155A (White) in disc florets.

Disease and insect resistance: Very disease resistant, however, plants are susceptible to aphids, thrips, whiteflies and worms.

COMPARISON WITH PARENTAL LINES AND KNOWN CULTIVARS

‘SAKOST3442’ is a distinct variety of *Osteospermum* owing to its white and purple flower color and mounded, cascading growth habit. ‘SAKOST3442’ is distinguished from its parents primarily by its white and purple flower color and mounded, cascading growth habit, as described in Table 1 (color references are to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 4th edition):

TABLE I

Comparison with Parental Lines			
Characteristic	‘SAKOST3442’	Male Parent ‘98064’	Female Parent ‘98071’
Ray floret (ligule) color, upper surface:	RHS N155A (White) with RHS 77B (Purple) at base.	Dark Pink	White
Plant growth habit	Mounded cascading	Compact and semi-cascading	Cascading

‘SAKOST3442’ is a distinct variety of *Osteospermum* owing to its unique white ray floret color with blue disc florets, medium flower size, flowers that stay open under low

light conditions and mounded cascading plant habit. ‘SAKOST3442’ is most similar to the *Osteospermum* plant named ‘Cape Daisy Nairobi Improved’ or ‘Aknar’ (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 15,654); however, there are differences as described in Table 2 (color references are to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 4th edition):

TABLE 2

Comparison with Similar Variety		
Characteristic	‘SAKOST3442’	‘Aknai’
Ray floret (ligule) color, upper surface:	RHS Ni 55A (White) with RHS 77B (Purple) at base.	RHS 1 55D (White)
Ray floret (ligule) color, lower surface:	RHS 76D (Purple) with RHS N77D (Purple) streaks.	RHS 1 57A (Green-White) with alternating longitudinal stripes of RHS 188B (Greyed-Green) and RHS 146C (Yellow Green)
Color of disc florets	RHS 93A (Violet-Blue)	RHS 97B (Violet-Blue) at apex, RHS 1 55A (White) at mid-section and RHS 157A (Green-White) at base.
Plant growth habit	Mounded cascading	Uniformly mounded

I claim:

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

* * * * *

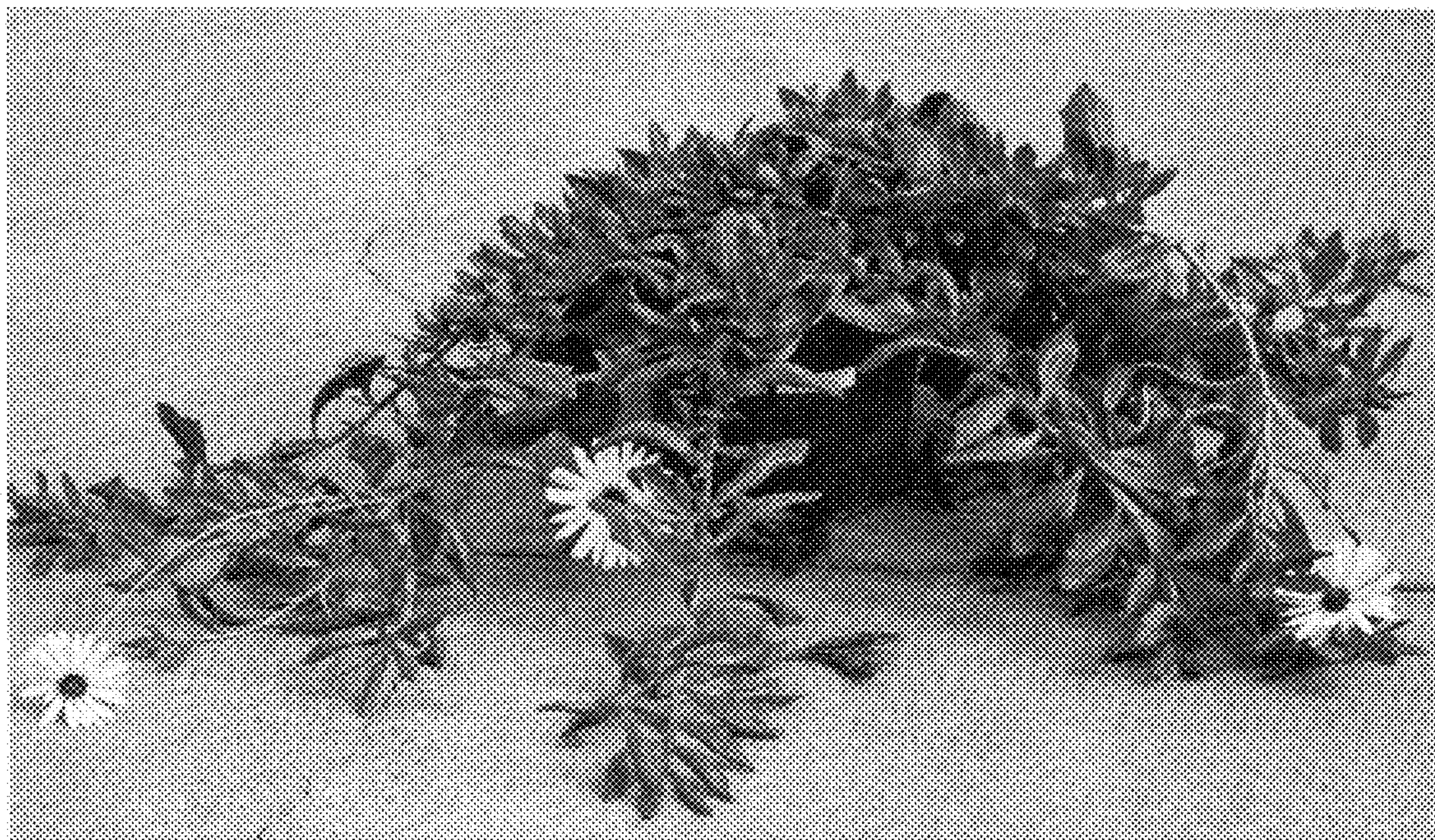


Fig. 1

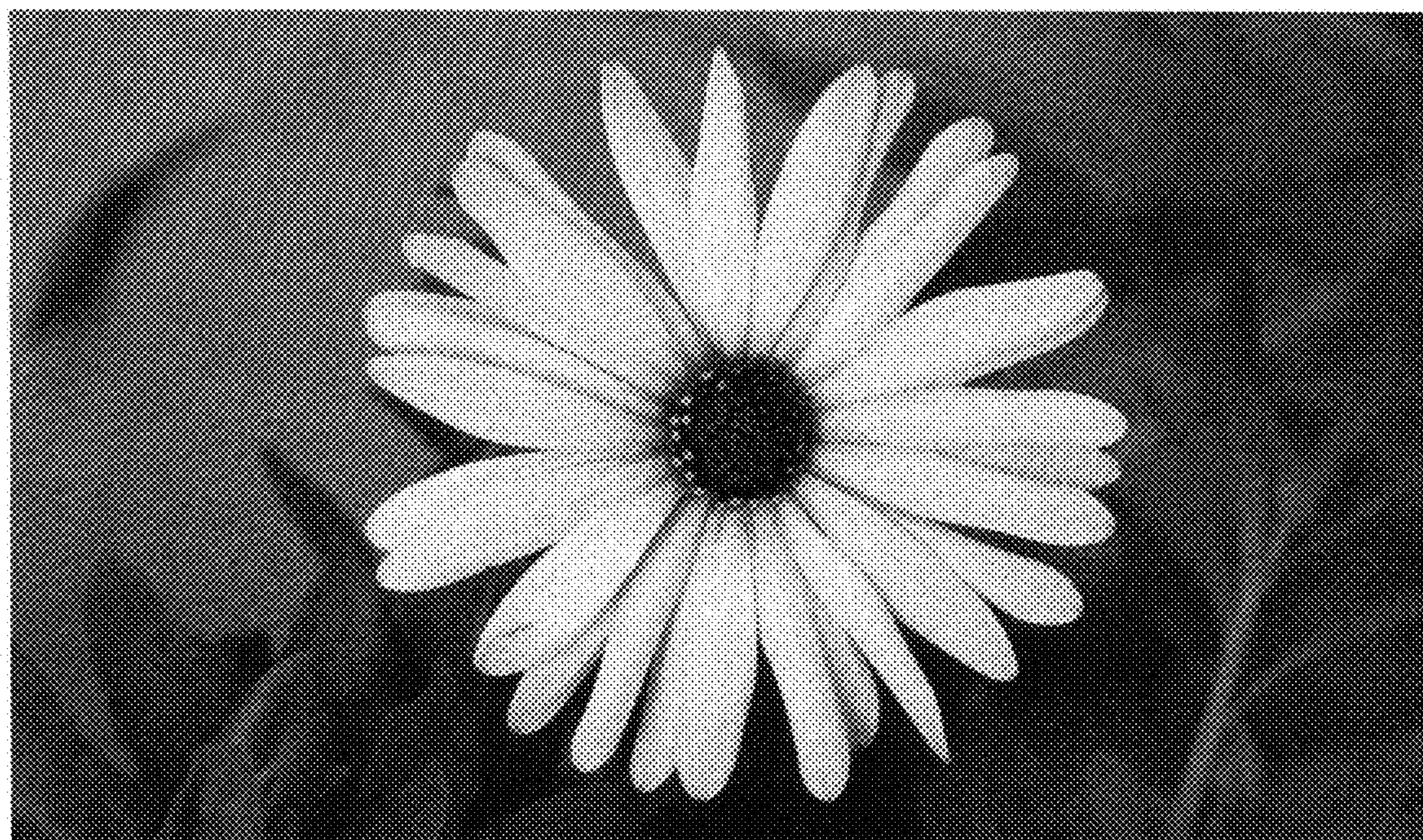


Fig. 2