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Kanaya

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(54) **CALIBRACHOA PLANT NAMED**
‘SUNCALKUKI’
(50) Latin Name: ***Calibrachoa* sp.**
Varietal Denomination: **Suncalkuki**
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patent is extended or adjusted under 35
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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Calibrachoa* plant named ‘Sun-
calkuki’, characterized by its trailing plant habit; moderately
vigorous growth habit; freely branching and flowering plant
habit; long flowering period; yellow-colored flowers; and
good garden performance.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Botanical designation: *Calibrachoa* sp.
Cultivar denomination: ‘SUNCALKUKI’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of *Calibrachoa* plant, botanically known as *Calibrachoa* sp.
and hereinafter referred to by the name ‘Suncalkuki’.

The new *Calibrachoa* plant is a product of a planned breed-
ing program conducted by the Inventor in Higashiomi, Shiga,
Japan. The objective of the breeding program is to develop
new trailing and freely-branching *Calibrachoa* cultivars with
attractive and unique flower coloration.

The new *Calibrachoa* plant originated from a cross-pollin-
ation conducted by the Inventor in Higashiomi, Shiga, Japan
in April, 2004 of a proprietary selection of *Calibrachoa* sp.
identified as code number R101, not patented, as the female,
or seed, parent with a proprietary selection of *Calibrachoa* sp.
identified as code number C31, not patented, as the male, or
pollen, parent. The new *Calibrachoa* was discovered and
selected by the Inventor as a single flowering plant from
within the progeny of the stated cross-pollination in a con-
trolled greenhouse environment in Higashiomi, Shiga, Japan
in September, 2005.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Calibrachoa* plant by
vegetative cuttings in a controlled greenhouse environment in
Higashiomi, Shiga, Japan since October, 2005, has shown
that the unique features of this new *Calibrachoa* plant are
stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Plants of the new *Calibrachoa* have not been observed
under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype
may vary somewhat with variations in environment and cul-
tural practices such as temperature and light intensity with-
out, however, any variance in genotype.

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and are
determined to be the unique characteristics of ‘Suncalkuki’.
These characteristics in combination distinguish ‘Sun-
calkuki’ as a new and distinct cultivar of *Calibrachoa*:

1. Trailing plant habit.
2. Moderately vigorous growth habit.
3. Freely branching and flowering plant habit.
4. Long flowering period.
5. Yellow-colored flowers.
6. Good garden performance.

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Plants of the new *Calibrachoa* can be compared to plants of
the female parent selection. Plants of the new *Calibrachoa*
differ primarily from plants of the female parent selection in
the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Calibrachoa* are more trailing than
plants of the female parent selection.
2. Plants of the new *Calibrachoa* and the female parent
selection differ in flower color as plants of the female
parent selection have red-colored flowers.

Plants of the new *Calibrachoa* can be compared to plants of
the male parent selection. Plants of the new *Calibrachoa*
differ primarily from plants of the male parent selection in
flower color as plants of the male parent selection have pale
yellow-colored flowers.

Plants of the new *Calibrachoa* can also be compared to
plants of ‘Sunbelki’, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 11,558.
In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Higashiomi, Shiga,
Japan, plants of the new *Calibrachoa* and ‘Sunbelki’ differed
primarily in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Calibrachoa* were more trailing than
plants of ‘Sunbelki’.
2. Plants of the new *Calibrachoa* were more compact than
and not as vigorous as plants of ‘Sunbelki’.
3. Plants of the new *Calibrachoa* were more freely branch-
ing than plants of ‘Sunbelki’.
4. Plants of the new *Calibrachoa* had smaller leaves than
plants of ‘Sunbelki’.
5. Plants of the new *Calibrachoa* and ‘Sunbelki’ differed in
flower color as plants of ‘Sunbelki’ had darker yellow-
colored flowers.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying colored photographs illustrate the over-
all appearance of the new *Calibrachoa*, showing the colors as
true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in colored reproduc-
tions 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
Calibrachoa.

The photograph at the top of the sheet comprises a side
perspective view of a typical flowering plant of ‘Suncalkuki’
grown in a container.

The photograph at the bottom of the sheet is a close-up
view of typical flowers of ‘Suncalkuki’.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The aforementioned photographs and following observations, measurements and values describe plants grown in 15-cm containers in Higashiomi, Shiga, Japan, under commercial practice during the summer in an outdoor nursery. During the production of the plants, day temperatures averaged 23° C. and night temperatures averaged 13° C. Plants had been growing for four and five months when the description and photographs, respectively, 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: *Calibrachoa* sp. 'Suncalkuki'.

Parentage:

Female, or seed, parent.—Proprietary selection of *Calibrachoa* sp. identified as code number R101, not patented.

Male, or pollen, parent.—Proprietary selection of *Calibrachoa* sp. identified as code number C31, not patented.

Propagation:

Type.—By vegetative cuttings.

Time to initiate roots.—About one week at 15° C. to 20° C.

Time to produce a rooted young plant.—About three weeks at 15° C. to 20° C.

Root description.—Fibrous; white in color.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching.

Plant description:

Plant and growth habit.—Trailing plant habit; freely branching habit with numerous lateral branches developing per plant; pinching is not required, but will enhance lateral branch development; moderately vigorous growth habit.

Plant height.—About 10.2 cm.

Plant diameter.—About 44.6 cm.

Lateral branch description:

Length.—About 23 cm.

Diameter.—About 1.1 mm.

Internode length.—About 1.4 cm.

Strength.—Strong.

Aspect.—Upright to outward.

Texture.—Pubescent.

Color: Close to 144A.

Foliage description:

Arrangement.—Alternate, simple.

Length.—About 2.6 cm.

Width.—About 8 mm.

Shape.—Narrowly elliptic.

Apex.—Rounded.

Base.—Cuneate.

Margin.—Entire.

Texture, upper and lower surfaces.—Pubescent.

Venation pattern.—Pinnate; reticulate.

Color.—Developing and fully expanded leaves, upper surface: Close to 138A; venation, close to 145A.

Developing and fully expanded leaves, lower surface: Close to 138B; venation, close to 145A.

Petiole.—Length: About 3 mm. Diameter: About 1 mm.

Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Sparsely pubescent. *Color, upper and lower surfaces:* Close to 145A.

Flower description:

Flower arrangement and habit.—Single salverform flowers arising from upper leaf axils; freely flowering

habit with usually about 64 open flowers per plant at one time; flowers face upright or outwardly.

Fragrance.—None detected.

Natural flowering season.—Early flowering habit, plants of the new *Calibrachoa* initiate and develop flowers about three to four weeks after planting. Long flowering period; flowering commences naturally during the spring and plants flower continuously throughout the summer until late autumn in Japan.

Flower longevity.—Individual flowers last about seven to ten days on the plant; flowers not persistent.

Flower diameter.—About 3.1 cm.

Flower length (depth).—About 2.7 cm.

Throat diameter.—About 7.6 mm.

Tube length.—About 1.8 cm.

Tube diameter.—About 1.7 mm.

Flower bud.—Shape: Cylindrical. Length: About 2.1 cm. Diameter: About 5.8 mm. Color: Close to 150D.

Corolla.—Arrangement: Five petals fused at the base and opening into a flared trumpet. Petal length from throat: About 1.2 cm. Petal width: About 1.4 cm. Petal shape: Spatulate. Petal apex: Acute to acuminate. Petal margin: Entire. Petal texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Throat texture: Smooth, glabrous. Tube texture: Pubescent. Color: Petal, when opening, upper surface: Close to 6C; towards the throat, close to 7A. Petal, when opening, lower surface: Close to 6D. Petal, fully opened, upper surface: Close to 6C; towards the throat, close to 7A. Petal, fully opened, lower surface: Close to 2D. Throat: Close to 8C. Tube: Close to 8C.

Calyx.—Arrangement: One star-shaped calyx tube with five sepals fused at the base. Sepal length: About 6.4 mm. Sepal width: About 2.4 mm. Sepal shape: Lanceolate. Sepal apex: Acute. Sepal margin: Entire. Sepal texture, upper and lower surfaces: Pubescent. Color, immature and mature, upper surface: Close to 144A. Color, immature and mature, lower surface: Close to 144B.

Peduncles.—Length: About 1.3 cm. Diameter: About 0.7 mm. Angle: Mostly outward. Strength: Strong. Texture: Pubescent. Color: Close to 144A.

Reproductive organs.—Stamens: Quantity/arrangement: Five per flower. Stamen length: About 1 cm. Anther shape: Ellipsoidal. Anther size: About 1.6 mm by 1.4 mm. Anther color: Close to 8B. Pollen amount: Moderate. Pollen color: Close to 8B. Pistils: Quantity: One per flower. Pistil length: About 1 cm. Style color: Close to 144D. Stigma shape: Transversely ellipsoidal. Stigma color: Close to 144A. Ovary color: Close to 144A. Seed/fruit: Seed and fruit development have not been observed on plants of the new *Calibrachoa*.

Garden performance: Plants of the new *Calibrachoa* have been observed to have good garden performance and to tolerate wind, rain and temperatures ranging from about 5° C. to about 35° C.

Pathogen/pest resistance: Plants of the new *Calibrachoa* have not been observed to be resistant to pests and pathogens common to *Calibrachoa*.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct *Calibrachoa* plant named 'Suncalkuki' as illustrated and described.

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