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Kanaya

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(54) **CALIBRACHOA PLANT NAMED**
'SUNBELSIMA'
(50) Latin Name: *Calibrachoa* sp.
Varietal Denomination: **Sunbelsima**
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(73) Assignee: **Suntory Flowers, Ltd.**, Tokyo (JP)
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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 'Sunbelsima', characterized by its upright, outwardly spreading and mounding plant habit; vigorous growth habit; freely branching and flowering plant habit; early and long flowering period; yellow and red bi-colored flowers; and good garden performance.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Botanical designation: *Calibrachoa* sp.
Cultivar denomination: 'Sunbelsima'.

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 'Sunbelsima'.

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

The new *Calibrachoa* plant originated from a cross-pollination conducted by the Inventor in Higashiomi, Shiga, Japan in April, 2005 of a proprietary selection of *Calibrachoa* sp. identified as code number 3153-7, not patented, as the female, or seed, parent with a proprietary selection of *Calibrachoa* sp. identified as code number 908-5, not patented, as the male, or pollen, parent. The new *Calibrachoa* plant was discovered and selected by the Inventor as a single flowering plant from within the progeny of the stated cross-pollination in a controlled greenhouse environment in Higashiomi, Shiga, Japan in September, 2006.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Calibrachoa* plant by vegetative cuttings in a controlled greenhouse environment in Higashiomi, Shiga, Japan since October, 2006, 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 cultural practices 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 'Sunbelsima'. These characteristics in combination distinguish 'Sunbelsima' as a new and distinct cultivar of *Calibrachoa*:

1. Upright, outwardly spreading and mounding plant habit.
2. Vigorous growth habit.

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3. Freely branching and flowering plant habit.
4. Early and long flowering period.
5. Yellow and red bi-colored flowers.
6. Good garden performance.

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 upright than and not as trailing as 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 the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Calibrachoa* are more upright than and not as trailing as plants of the male parent selection.
2. Plants of the new *Calibrachoa* and the male parent selection differ in flower color as plants of the male parent selection have orange-colored flowers.

Plants of the new *Calibrachoa* can also be compared to plants of 'Sunbelfire', disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 16,684. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Higashiomi, Shiga, Japan, plants of the new *Calibrachoa* and 'Sunbelfire' differed primarily in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Calibrachoa* were taller than plants of 'Sunbelfire'.
2. Plants of the new *Calibrachoa* had taller flowers than plants of 'Sunbelfire'.
3. Plants of the new *Calibrachoa* and 'Sunbelfire' differed in flower color.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying colored photographs illustrate the overall appearance of the new *Calibrachoa*, showing 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 *Calibrachoa*.

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

The photograph at the bottom of the sheet is a close-up view of typical leaves and a flower of 'Sunbelsima'.

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. 'Sunbelsima'.

Parentage:

Female, or seed, parent.—Proprietary selection of *Calibrachoa* sp. identified as code number 3153-7, not patented.

Male, or pollen, parent.—Proprietary selection of *Calibrachoa* sp. identified as code number 908-5, 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.—Semi-upright, outwardly spreading and mounding plant habit; freely branching habit with numerous lateral branches developing per plant; pinching enhances lateral branch development; vigorous growth habit.

Plant height.—About 19.2 cm.

Plant diameter.—About 46.8 cm.

Lateral branch description:

Length.—About 23.4 cm.

Diameter.—About 1.5 mm.

Internode length.—About 1.1 cm.

Strength.—Strong.

Aspect.—Upright to outward.

Texture.—Pubescent.

Color.—Close to 146C with reddish tinting.

Foliage description:

Arrangement.—Alternate, simple.

Length.—About 4.1 cm.

Width.—About 1.1 cm.

Shape.—Narrowly elliptic.

Apex.—Broadly acute.

Base.—Cuneate.

Margin.—Entire.

Texture, upper and lower surfaces.—Pubescent.

Venation pattern.—Pinnate; reticulate.

Color.—Developing and fully expanded leaves, upper surface: Close to 137B; venation, close to 145C.

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

Petiole.—Length: About 2.6 mm. Diameter: About 0.9 mm. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Pubescent.

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

Flower description:

Flower arrangement and habit.—Single salverform flowers arising from upper leaf axils; freely flowering habit with usually about 56 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 3.3 cm.

Flower length (depth).—About 2.8 cm.

Throat diameter.—About 7.7 mm.

Tube length.—About 1.6 cm.

Tube diameter.—About 1.9 mm.

Flower bud.—Shape: Cylindrical. Length: About 2.5 cm. Diameter: About 6.2 mm. Color: Close to 184B.

Corolla.—Arrangement: Five petals fused at the base and opening into a flared trumpet. Petal length from throat: About 1.1 cm. Petal width: About 1.4 cm. Petal shape: Spatulate. Petal apex: Mucronate. Petal margin: Entire. Petal texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Throat texture: Smooth, glabrous. Tube texture: Pubescent. Color: Petal, when opening and fully opened, upper surface: Ground color, close to 8A; random streaks, close to 46B. Petal, when opening and fully opened, lower surface: Close to 54A. Throat: Close to 12A; venation, close to 177A. Tube: Close to 12A; venation, close to 177A.

Calyx.—Arrangement: One star-shaped calyx tube with five sepals fused at the base. Sepal length: About 1.2 cm. Sepal width: About 3.2 mm. Sepal shape: Lanceolate. Sepal apex: Acute. Sepal margin: Entire. Sepal texture, upper and lower surfaces: Pubescent. Sepal color: Immature and mature, upper surface: Close to 137C. Immature and mature, lower surface: Close to 137B.

Peduncles.—Length: About 2.1 cm. Diameter: About 0.8 mm. Angle: Upright to outward. Strength: Strong. Texture: Pubescent. Color: Close to 144B with reddish tinting.

Reproductive organs.—Stamens: Quantity/arrangement: Five per flower. Stamen length: About 1.25 cm. Anther shape: Ellipsoidal. Anther size: About 1.6 mm by 1.2 mm. Anther color: Close to 10A. Pollen amount: Moderate. Pollen color: Close to 8B. Pistils: Quantity: One per flower. Pistil length: About 1.2 cm. Style color: Close to 145B. Stigma shape: Transversely ellipsoidal. Stigma color: Close to 145A.

Ovary color: Close to 144C. 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 'Sunbel-sima' as illustrated and described.

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