



(12) **United States Plant Patent**
Madsen

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- (54) **RHIPSALIDOPSIS PLANT NAMED ‘7371E’**
(50) Latin Name: *Rhipsalidopsis*×*hybrida*
Varietal Denomination: **7371E**
(75) Inventor: **Christian Hald Madsen**, Korsør (DK)
(73) Assignee: **Gartneriet PKM A/S**, Odense N (DK)
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A01H 5/00 (2006.01)
(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./372**
(58) **Field of Classification Search** **Plt./372**
See application file for complete search history.

- (56) **References Cited**
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS
PP14,588 P2 * 3/2004 Hansson Plt./372
OTHER PUBLICATIONS
Print-out of application No. and filing from Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO) website for corresponding, CPVO application No. 2007/1166 filed May 25, 2007. (<http://www.cpvoextranet.cpvo.europa.eu>).
* cited by examiner
Primary Examiner—Wendy C. Haas
(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Foley & Lardner LLP

- (57) **ABSTRACT**
A new and distinct *Rhipsalidopsis* plant named ‘7371E’ particularly characterized by its large upright to vertical flowers which are orange-red in color; bushy plant habit; freely branching growth habit; and ovoid to lanceolatoid buds.

4 Drawing Sheets

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Latin name of the genus and species of the plant claimed:
Rhipsalidopsis×*hybrida*.
Variety denomination: ‘7371E’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of *Rhipsalidopsis* plant, botanically known as *Rhipsalidopsis*×*hybrida* sometimes referred to as *Rhipsalidopsis* Britton Et Rose, including *Epiphylopsis* Berger, commonly known as either Easter Cactus or Spring Cactus, and hereinafter referred to by the cultivar name ‘7371E’.

The new *Rhipsalidopsis* cultivar is a product of a controlled breeding program conducted by the inventor, Christian Hald Madsen, in Søhus, Denmark. The objective of the breeding program was to develop a new *Rhipsalidopsis* cultivar with compact, freely branching habit and unique colored flowers.

The new *Rhipsalidopsis* cultivar originated from a cross made by the inventor in 2003 in Søhus, Denmark. The female or seed parent is the *Rhipsalidopsis* Britton Et Rose designated ‘9411H’ (unpatented). The male or pollen parent is the *Rhipsalidopsis* Britton Et Rose designated ‘5345A’ (unpatented). The new *Rhipsalidopsis* cultivar was discovered and selected by the inventor as a single flowering plant within the progeny of the stated cross in a controlled environment in 2006 in Søhus, Denmark. The inventor selected ‘7371E’ on the basis of its flower color, upright, plant habit and freely branching habit.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Rhipsalidopsis* cultivar by phylloclade cuttings was first performed May of 2004 in Søhus, Denmark, and has demonstrated that the combination of characteristics as herein disclosed for the new cultivar are firmly fixed and retained through successive generations of asexual reproduction. The new cultivar reproduces true to type.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and are determined to be unique characteristics of ‘7371E’ which in combination distinguish this *Rhipsalidopsis* as a new and distinct cultivar:

1. Large upright to vertical flowers which are orange-red in color;
2. Bushy plant habit;
3. Freely branching growth habit; and
4. Ovoid to lanceolatoid in shape buds.

Plants of the instant cultivar ‘7371E’ differ primarily from plants of the parental cultivars ‘9411H’ (female or seed parent) and ‘5345A’ (male or pollen parent) by the following characteristics:

1. plants of ‘7371E’ have more lateral branches (when 3 phylloclade cuttings planted per plant) than the plants of the parental cultivars; and
2. plants of ‘7371E’ have more flowers than plants of the parental cultivars.

Side-by-side comparisons were conducted by the inventor in Søhus, Denmark, between plants of the instant cultivar ‘7371E’ and plants of the most similar commercial cultivar, *Rhipsalidopsis* AURIGA® (unpatented). Plants of the new *Rhipsalidopsis* ‘7371E’ differ from plants of *Rhipsalidopsis* AURIGA®, primarily by the following characteristics:

1. plants of ‘7371E’ have orange-red flowers (closest to RHS 31B) whereas plants of *Rhipsalidopsis* AURIGA® have orange-red flowers (closest to RHS 26A; and
2. plants of ‘7371E’ have more bushy branching than plants of *Rhipsalidopsis* AURIGA®.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying photographs illustrate the overall appearance of the new *Rhipsalidopsis* ‘7371E’ showing the

colors as true as is reasonably possible with 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 color of '7371E'.

FIG. 1 shows a side perspective view of a typical flowering plant of '7371E' grown in a 9.0 cm pots, at 12 months of age.

FIG. 2 shows a top perspective view of a typical flowering plants of '7371E' grown in a 9.0 cm pots, at 12 months of age.

FIG. 3 shows a close-up perspective view of a typical mature flower, phylloclade, and bud produced by '7371E' at 12 months of age.

FIG. 4 shows a close-up top perspective view of a typical mature flower produced by '7371E' at 12 months of age.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The new *Rhipsalidopsis* '7371E' has not been observed under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype of the new cultivar may vary with variations in environment such as temperature, light intensity, and day length without any change in the genotype of the plant.

The aforementioned photographs, together with the following observations, measurements and values describe plants of '7371E' as grown in a glass-covered greenhouse in Fyn, Denmark, under conditions which closely approximate those generally used in commercial practice, where day temperatures in the greenhouse average 18° C. and night temperatures in the greenhouse average 16° C. Ambient light levels used while growing plants of '7371E' are +50 Wm². Plants of '7371E' are thermo-photo-periodic and will develop buds and bloom best under long day photo-periodic treatments following short day photo-periodic treatment of about 6-8 weeks and cool day/night temperatures of about 8°. No growth retardants were used when growing plants of '7371E'.

The age of the '7371E' plants described is 12 months old and grown in 9.0 cm pots. The photographs and descriptions were taken during the winter season. Color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart (R.H.S.), 4th edition, except where general colors of ordinary significance are used.

Classification:

Botanical.—*Rhipsalidopsis* Britton Et Rose.

Common name.—Easter Cactus or Spring Cactus.

Parentage:

Female or seed parent.—*Rhipsalidopsis* Britton Et Rose '9411H' (unpatented).

Male or pollen parent.—*Rhipsalidopsis* Britton Et Rose '5345A' (unpatented).

Propagation:

Type.—By phylloclade cuttings.

Time and temperature to initiate roots.—In a greenhouse, about 1 months at 18° C. to 21° C.

Time and temperature to produce a rooted young plant.—In a greenhouse, about 60 days at 18° C. to 21° C.

Rooting habit and description.—Fine, well-branched and RHS 158A, yellow-white in color.

Plant:

Type.—Perennial, Epiphyte.

Growth habit.—Initially erect and upright, becoming pendent as lateral branches lengthen.

Branching habit.—Freely branching, with two or there new phylloclades forming at the apical end of older phylloclades.

Vigor.—Slow growth rate.

Crop time.—After rooting, about 11 months are required to produce a finished flowering plant in an 9 cm pot.

Size at maturity.—Height (soil level to top of plant, including flowers): About 16 cm. Spread: About 20 cm to 22 cm.

Stem: None, older phylloclades may turn woody with age (several years).

Lateral branches:

Arrangement.—Phylloclades form at the apex of older phylloclades to form branches.

Quantity.—About 9 to 12, when 3 phylloclade cuttings planted per pot.

Length.—Primary: About 3 cm to 4 cm (1 phylloclade).

Secondary: About 12 cm (3 or 4 phylloclades).

Width.—About 2 cm to 3 cm.

Aspect.—Upright to arching (from basal phylloclade).

Strength.—Strong (from basal phylloclade).

Appearance.—Dull, matte.

Pubescence.—None.

Phylloclade:

Arrangement.—Single and sequential.

Length.—About 3 cm to 4 cm.

Width.—About 2 cm to 3 cm.

Thickness.—About 4 mm to 6 mm (at center vein of phylloclade).

Overall shape.—Oval.

Apex shape.—Truncate.

Base shape.—Rounded.

Margin.—Crenate.

Texture.—Glabrous, smooth.

Pubescence.—None.

Color of immature phylloclade.—Upper and lower surfaces: RHS 147A, yellow-green.

Color of mature phylloclade.—Upper and lower surfaces: RHS 147B, yellow-green.

Venation.—Pattern: Costate. Color: Upper and lower surfaces: RHS 147A, yellow-green.

Areole: Not true areole structure; tip of phylloclade is barbelate, 5 to 12 short hairs or bristles.

Inflorescence description:

Arrangement and appearance.—Single, double or triple sessile flowers borne on apical end of phylloclades. Flowers are tubular, hose-in-hose perianth. When flowers are fully open, they form a right angle to the phylloclade. Flowers persistent.

Natural flowering season.—Flowering occurs from February to April (northern hemisphere), but can be changed depending on short day photo-treatments.

Flowering response time.—About 8 to 9 weeks after short day and vernalization.

Rate of flowers opening.—About 2 per week, depending on temperature and light.

Flowering longevity (dependent on temperature and light conditions).—About 5 to 6 days.

Fragrance.—None.

Quantity of flowers per lateral branch.—About 1 to 3.

Quantity of buds per lateral branch.—About 2.

Quantity of flowers and buds per plant.—About 30 to 45.

Flower bud.—Length: Ranging from 0 to 35 mm (before anthesis). Width: Ranging from 0 to 1 cm. Shape: Ovoid to lanceolatoid. Color: RHS 31B, orange-red.

Flower.—Type: Single. Shape: Tubular, hose-in-hose triple perianth. Aspect: Upright to vertical during development. Persistent or self-cleaning: Persistent.

Corolla size.—Height: About 4 cm to 5 cm (including ovary). Diameter: About 3 cm to 4 cm. Tube length: About 2 cm to 3 cm. Tube diameter: About 10 mm.

Petals.—Quantity: Apical Whorl: About 10; Basal whorl: About 5 to 7. Length: About 2.8 cm to 3.0 cm. 5 Width: About 6 mm to 8 mm. Shape: Oval. Apex: Retuse. Base: Apical Whorl: Fused; Basal Whorl: Free. Margin: Entire. Appearance: Matte. Texture: Silky. Color (When Opening): Upper and lower surfaces: Petals: RHS 31B, orange-red; Tube: RHS 31C, 10 orange-red. Color (When Fully Opened): Upper and lower surfaces: Petals: RHS 31B, orange-red; Tube: RHS 31C, orange-red. Color Fades to: RHS 34A, orange-red.

Petaloids.—Arrangement: Free. Quantity: About 5 to 6. 15 Length: About 10 mm to 20 mm. Width: About 5 mm to 7 mm. Shape: Oval. Apex: Acute. Base: Fused. Margin: Entire. Texture (both surfaces): Silky. Color (mature and immature): RHS 31B, orange-red.

Sepals.—Quantity: About 5. Length: About 8 mm to 10 20 mm. Width: About 1 mm. Shape: Ovate. Apex: Obtuse to rounded. Base: Truncate. Margin: Grooved. Texture (both surfaces): Glabrous, silky. Color (immature and mature): RHS 147B, yellow-green.

Reproductive organs:

Androecium.—Stamen: Quantity: Many (about 50 to 70), polyandrous, incurved. Some filaments fused to

perianth tube (connate). Length: About 15 mm. Color: White, RHS N155D. Anther: Shape: Ovoid. Length: About 1 mm. Color: RHS 17C, yellow-orange. Filament: Length: About 13 to 14 mm. Color: White, RHS N155D. Pollen: Amount: Abundant. Color: RHS 17C, yellow-orange.

Gynoecium.—Pistil: Quantity: 1. Shape: Claw-like. Length: About 20 mm. Stigma: Shape: Ovoid. Color: RHS 159B, orange-white. Style: Length: About 20 mm. Color: RHS 31B, orange-red. Ovary: Shape: Angular. Length: About 10 mm. Width: About 5 mm. Color: RHS 144A, yellow-green.

Seeds/fruit: None observed.

Disease/pest resistance: No test for disease/pest resistance have been performed yet.

Disease/pest susceptibility: No test for disease/pest resistance have been performed yet.

Temperature tolerance: Tolerant to a low temperature of about 2° C. and to a high temperature about 40° C. Good tolerance to drought.

I claim:

1. A new and distinct *Rhipsalidopsis* plant named '7371E', 25 as illustrated and described herein.

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FIG. 1

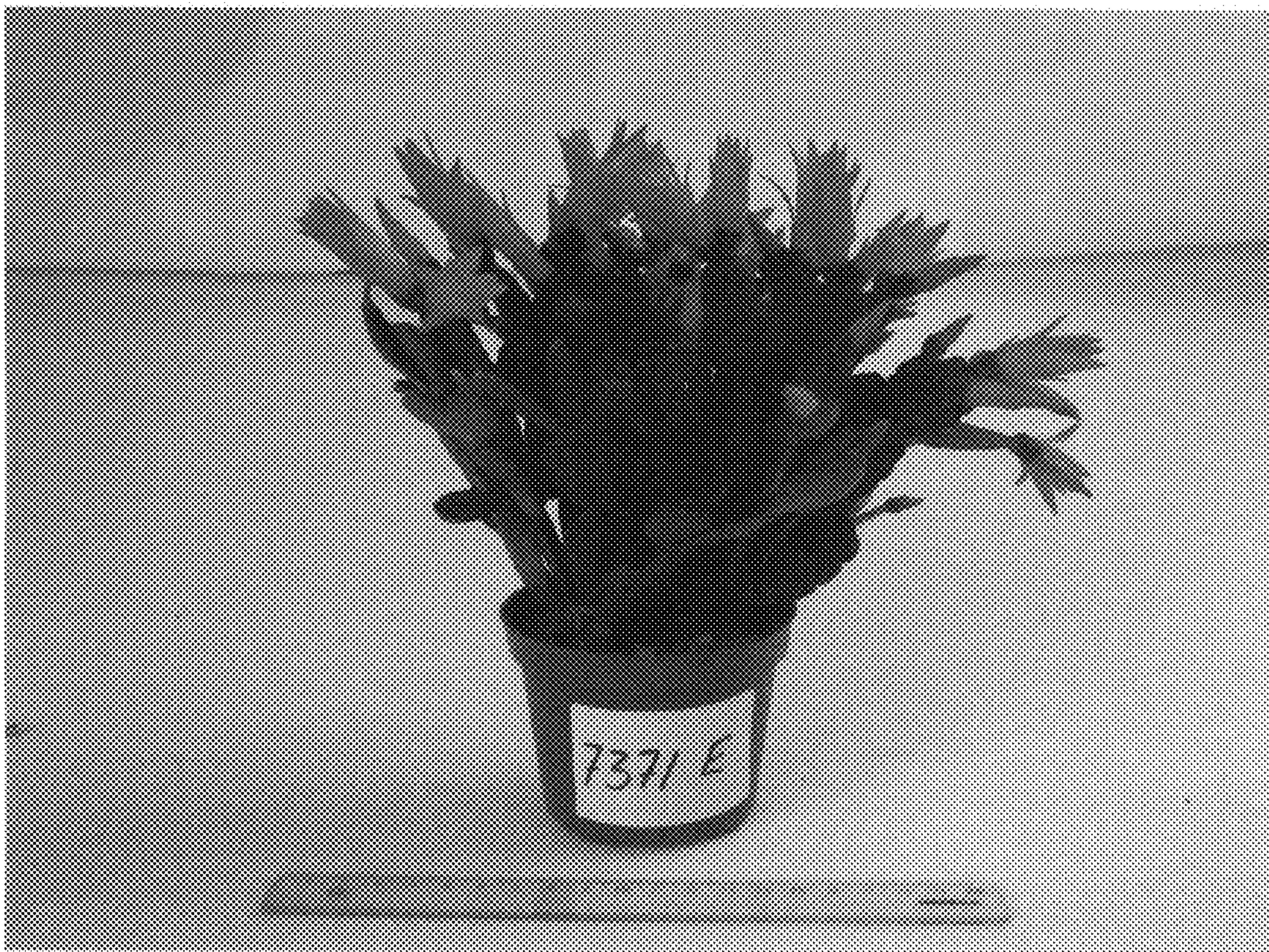


FIG. 2



FIG. 3

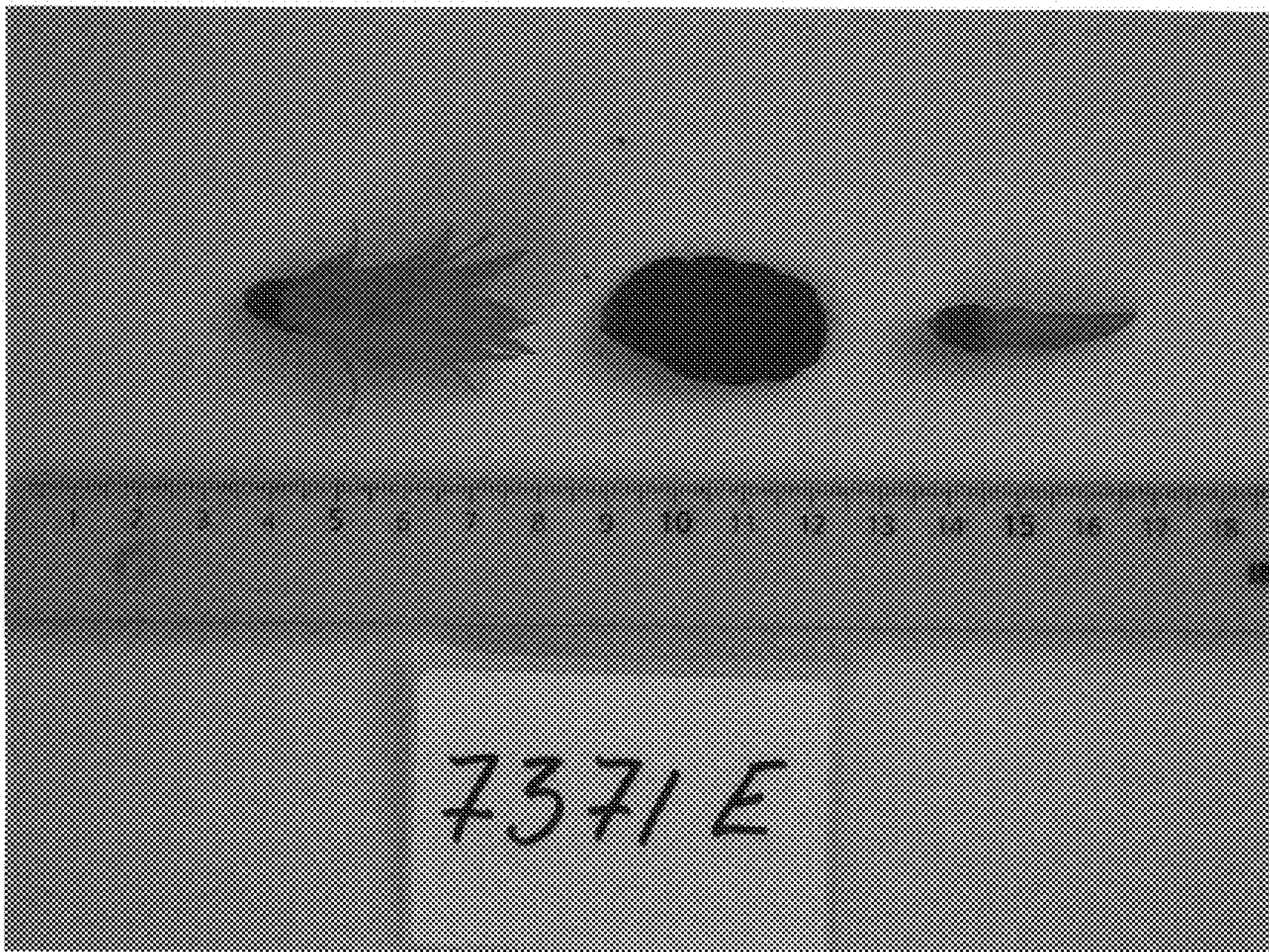


FIG. 4

