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Podaras

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(54) **BUDDLEJA PLANT NAMED ‘PODARAS #16’**

(50) Latin Name: *Buddleja davidii* × *Buddleja alternifolia*
Varietal Denomination: **Podaras #16**

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(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./242**

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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Buddleja* plant named ‘Podaras #16’, characterized by its compact and outwardly spreading plant habit; freely flowering habit; sterile light violet-colored flowers; and good garden performance.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Botanical designation: *Buddleja davidii* × *Buddleja alternifolia*.

Cultivar denomination: ‘PODARAS #16’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of *Buddleja* plant, botanically known as *Buddleja davidii* × *Buddleja alternifolia* and hereinafter referred to by the name ‘Podaras #16’.

The new *Buddleja* plant is a product of a planned breeding program conducted by the Inventor in Ithaca, N.Y. The objective of the breeding program was to create new compact and sterile *Buddleja* plants with unique and attractive flower coloration.

The new *Buddleja* plant originated from a cross-pollination on Jan. 17, 2007 in Ithaca, N.Y., of an unnamed selection of *Buddleja davidii* × *Buddleja alternifolia*, not patented, as the female, or seed, parent with an unnamed selection of *Buddleja davidii* × *Buddleja alternifolia*, not patented, as the male, or pollen, parent. The new *Buddleja* plant was discovered and selected by the Inventor as a single flowering plant within the progeny of the stated cross-pollination in a controlled environment in Ithaca, N.Y. in August, 2007.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Buddleja* plant by cuttings in a controlled greenhouse environment in West Chicago, Ill. since February, 2008, has shown that the unique features of this new *Buddleja* plant are stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Plants of the new *Buddleja* 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 ‘Podaras #16’. These characteristics in combination distinguish ‘Podaras #16’ as a new and distinct *Buddleja* plant:

1. Compact and outwardly spreading plant habit.
2. Freely flowering habit.

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3. Sterile light violet-colored flowers.

4. Good garden performance.

Plants of the new *Buddleja* differ from plants of the female parent selection in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Buddleja* are more compact than and not as open as plants of the female parent selection.

2. Plants of the new *Buddleja* and the female parent selection differ in flower color as plants of the female parent selection have dark purple-colored flowers.

Plants of the new *Buddleja* differ from plants of the male parent selection in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Buddleja* are taller than plants of the male parent selection.

2. Plants of the new *Buddleja* are more rounded than and not as outwardly spreading as plants of the male parent selection.

3. Leaves of plants of the new *Buddleja* are smaller and narrower than leaves of plants of the male parent selection.

Plants of the new *Buddleja* can be compared to plants of *Buddleja davidii* ‘Pink Delight’, not patented. In side-by-side comparisons, plants of the new *Buddleja* and ‘Pink Delight’ differed in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Buddleja* were shorter than plants of ‘Pink Delight’.

2. Plants of the new *Buddleja* and ‘Pink Delight’ differed in leaf color as plants of ‘Pink Delight’ had silvery-colored leaves.

3. Plants of the new *Buddleja* and ‘Pink Delight’ differed in flower color as plants of ‘Pink Delight’ had bright pink-colored flowers.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying colored photographs illustrate the overall appearance of the new *Buddleja* plant, 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 *Buddleja* plant.

The photograph at the bottom of the sheet comprises a side perspective view of a typical flowering plant of 'Podaras #16' grown in a container.

The photograph at the top of the sheet is a close-up view of a typical flowering plant of 'Podaras #16'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The aforementioned photographs and following observations, measurements and values describe plants grown in Arroyo Grande, Calif. under commercial practice during the summer in 12.5-cm containers in a polyethylene-covered greenhouse with day temperatures averaging 21° C. and night temperatures averaging 7° C. Plants were pinched two times and were five months old when the photographs and description were taken. In the following description, color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 2007 Edition, except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

Botanical classification: *Buddleja davidii* × *Buddleja alternifolia* 'Podaras #16'.

Parentage:

Female, or seed, parent.—Unnamed selection of *Buddleja davidii* × *Buddleja alternifolia*, not patented.

Male, or pollen, parent.—Unnamed selection of *Buddleja davidii* × *Buddleja alternifolia*, not patented.

Propagation:

Type.—By cuttings.

Time to initiate roots plant, summer.—About two weeks at temperatures of 18° C. to 24° C.

Time to initiate roots plant, winter.—About two to three weeks at temperatures of 18° C. to 24° C.

Time to produce a rooted plant, summer.—About three weeks at temperatures of 18° C. to 24° C.

Time to produce a rooted plant, winter.—About three to four weeks at temperatures of 18° C. to 24° C.

Root description.—Fibrous, fine; white in color.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching; moderately dense.

Plant description:

Plant form/habit.—Deciduous perennial shrub; compact and outwardly spreading habit; broad inverted triangle; vigorous growth habit.

Plant height.—About 12 cm.

Plant width (spread).—About 38 cm by 42 cm.

Lateral branches.—Quantity: About twelve main branches per plant. Length: About 26 cm. Diameter: About 4 mm. Internode length: About 1.2 cm to 1.5 cm. Strength: Strong. Texture, developing stems: Tomentose. Texture, mature stems: Smooth, glabrous. Color, developing: Close to 190C. Color, mature: Close to N199A to N199B.

Foliage description:

Arrangement.—Opposite, simple.

Length.—About 4.8 cm.

Width.—About 1.2 cm.

Shape.—Elliptical.

Apex.—Acute.

Base.—Attenuate.

Margin.—Slightly serrulate.

Texture, upper and lower surfaces.—Pubescent.

Venation pattern.—Pinnate, reticulate.

Color.—Developing leaves, upper surface: Close to 137A. Developing leaves, lower surface: Close to N138C. Fully expanded leaves, upper surface: Close

to N137A; venation, close to 195B. Fully expanded leaves, lower surface: Close to 196A; venation, close to 196A.

Petiole.—Length: About 2 mm. Diameter: About 1.5 mm. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Pubescent. Color, upper surface: Close to 194B. Color, lower surface: Close to 194C.

Flower description:

Flower type/habit.—Single rotate and salverform flowers arranged in compound terminal panicles; flowers face upright and outward; panicles roughly conical in shape; freely flowering habit with about 255 flower buds and flowers developing per inflorescence.

Fragrance.—Faintly fragrant; sweet.

Natural flowering season.—Plants begin flowering about three months after planting; flowering continuous from spring until frost in California.

Postproduction longevity.—Flowers last about three to four days on the plant; flowers persistent.

Flower buds.—Height: About 1.2 cm. Diameter: About 2.5 mm. Shape: Oblong. Color: Close to 90B.

Inflorescence height.—About 7.4 cm.

Inflorescence diameter.—About 3.5 cm.

Flower diameter.—About 6 mm.

Flower depth.—About 1.2 cm.

Flower throat, diameter.—About 1.5 mm.

Flower tube, length.—About 1 cm.

Flower tube, diameter at base.—About 1.5 mm.

Petals.—Quantity per flower: Typically four in a single whorl; petals fused into a narrow tube. Lobe length: About 3 mm. Lobe width: About 3 mm. Lobe shape: Roughly spatulate. Lobe apex: Rounded. Lobe margin: Erosulate, slightly crinkled. Texture, upper and lower lobe surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Texture, throat: Slightly pubescent. Texture, tube: Smooth, glabrous. Color: Developing petals, upper surface: Close to 90C. Developing petals, lower surface: Close to N88C. Fully expanded petals, upper surface: Close to N88C; venation, close to N88C; color becoming closer to 91B with development. Fully expanded petals, lower surface: Close to N88D; venation, close to N88D. Throat: Close to 167D; venation, close to 167D. Tube: Close to 177D; venation, close to 177D.

Sepals.—Quantity per flower: Typically four in a single whorl, fused towards the base; campanulate calyx. Length: About 1.5 mm. Width: About 1 mm. Shape: Lanceolate. Apex: Acute. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper surface: Smooth, glabrous. Texture, lower surface: Pubescent. Color, upper surface: Close to 146C. Color, lower surface: Close to 146D.

Peduncles.—Length: About 1.5 cm. Diameter: About 1.5 mm. Angle: Arching outwardly to drooping. Strength: Strong. Texture: Lanulose. Color: Close to 195B.

Pedicels.—Length: About 2 mm. Diameter: About 1 mm. Angle: About 45° from peduncle axis. Strength: Moderately strong. Texture: Pubescent. Color: Close to 148C.

Reproductive organs.—Stamens: Quantity per flower: Typically four; filaments adnate to the corolla tube. Filament length: About 4 mm. Filament color: Close to 163C. Anther shape: Lanceolate. Anther length: About 1 mm. Anther color: Close to 162D. Pollen amount: None. Pistils: Quantity per flower: One. Pistil length: About 3.5 mm. Stigma shape: Oval. Stigma

color: Close to 145A. Style length: About 1.5 mm.
Style color: Close to 145C. Ovary color: Close to
144B.

Seed/fruit.—Flowers of plants of the new *Buddleja* are
sterile and seed and fruit development have not been
observed.

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

Garden performance: Plants of the new *Buddleja* have been
observed to have good garden performance and tolerate
rain, wind and temperatures ranging from about 0° C. to
about 40° C.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct *Buddleja* plant named 'Podaras #16'
as illustrated and described.

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