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Sakazaki

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- (54) **CALIBRACHOA PLANT NAMED**
'USCAL68604'
- (50) Latin Name: *Calibrachoa* sp.
Varietal Denomination: **USCAL68604**
- (75) Inventor: **Ushio Sakazaki**, Shiga (JP)
- (73) Assignee: **Plant 21 LLC**, Bonsall, CA (US)
- (*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 242 days.
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- (22) Filed: **Jun. 1, 2010**
- (51) **Int. Cl.**
A01H 5/00 (2006.01)
- (52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./413**
- (58) **Field of Classification Search** **Plt./413**
See application file for complete search history.

- (56) **References Cited**
- U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS
- PP14,729 P3 * 4/2004 Murakami Plt./356.22
- OTHER PUBLICATIONS
- UPOV ROM GTITM Computer Database, GTI Jouve Retrieval Software 2011/10 Citation for 'USCAL68604'.*
- * cited by examiner
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Calibrachoa* plant named 'USCAL68604', characterized by its compact, mounding and outwardly spreading plant habit; vigorous and freely branching growth habit; dense and bushy appearance; early and freely flowering habit; red purple-colored flowers with black-colored centers; and good garden performance.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Botanical designation: *Calibrachoa* sp.
Cultivar denomination: 'USCAL68604'.

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 'USCAL68604'.

The new *Calibrachoa* plant is a product of a planned breeding program conducted by the Inventor in Higashiomi, Shiga, Japan and Bonsall, Calif. The objective of the breeding program is to create new *Calibrachoa* plants with uniform plant habit, freely branching growth habit, attractive flowers and good garden performance.

The new *Calibrachoa* plant originated from a cross-pollination made by the Inventor on May 8, 2007 in Higashiomi, Shiga, Japan of a proprietary seedling selection of *Calibrachoa* sp. identified as code number C582-01B, not patented, as the female, or seed, parent with a proprietary seedling selection of *Calibrachoa* sp. identified as code number CJ07-17, not patented, as the male, or pollen, parent. The new *Calibrachoa* 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 Bonsall, Calif. on May 21, 2008.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Calibrachoa* plant by terminal cuttings in a controlled environment in Bonsall, Calif. since July 23, 2008 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-

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tural 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 'USCAL68604'. These characteristics in combination distinguish 'USCAL68604' as a new and distinct cultivar of *Calibrachoa*:

1. Compact, mounding and outwardly spreading plant habit.
2. Vigorous and freely branching growth habit; dense and bushy appearance.
3. Early and freely flowering habit.
4. Red purple-colored flowers with black-colored centers.
5. Good garden performance.

The new *Calibrachoa* plant 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 mounding than and not as upright as plants of the female parent selection.
2. Plants of the new *Calibrachoa* have larger flowers than plants of the female parent selection.
3. Plants of the new *Calibrachoa* and the female parent selection differ in flower color as plants of the female parent selection have pink-colored flowers with black-colored centers.

The new *Calibrachoa* plant 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 mounding than and not as creeping 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 purple-colored flowers with black-colored centers.

Plants of the new *Calibrachoa* can be compared to plants of the *Calibrachoa* 'Caltrapi', not patented. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Bonsall, Calif., plants of the new *Calibrachoa* differed primarily from plants of 'Caltrapi' in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Calibrachoa* were more mounding than and not as creeping as plants of 'Caltrapi'.
2. Plants of the new *Calibrachoa* and 'Caltrapi' differed in flower color as plants of 'Caltrapi' had rose purple-colored flowers without darker-colored centers.

Plants of the new *Calibrachoa* can also be compared to plants of the *Petunia* 'Sunbelrikupi', disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 14,729. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Bonsall, Calif., plants of the new *Calibrachoa* differed from plants of 'Sunbelrikupi' in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Calibrachoa* were more mounding than and not as creeping as plants of 'Sunbelrikupi'.
2. Plants of the new *Calibrachoa* flowered earlier than plants of 'Sunbelrikupi'.
3. Plants of the new *Calibrachoa* and 'Sunbelrikupi' differed in flower color as plants of 'Sunbelrikupi' had magenta-colored flowers.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

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

The photograph at the bottom of the sheet comprises a side perspective view of a typical flowering plant of 'USCAL68604' grown in a container.

The photograph at the top of the sheet comprises a close-up of a typical flowering plant of 'USCAL68604'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The aforementioned photographs and following observations, measurements and values describe plants grown during the spring in 15-cm containers in an outdoor nursery in Bonsall, Calif. During the production of the plants, day temperatures ranged from 18° C. to 24° C., night temperatures ranged from 5° C. to 8° C. and light levels ranged from 7,000 to 10,000 foot-candles. Plants were pinched one time and were eight weeks 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: *Calibrachoa* sp. 'USCAL68604'.
Parentage:

Female, or seed, parent.—Proprietary seedling selection of *Calibrachoa* sp. identified as code number C582-01B, not patented.

Male, or pollen, parent.—Proprietary seedling selection of *Calibrachoa* sp. identified as code number CJ07-17, not patented.

Propagation:

Type.—By terminal cuttings.

Time to initiate roots, summer.—About four days at temperatures ranging from 17° C. to 29° C.

Time to initiate roots, winter.—About six days at temperatures ranging from 17° C. to 21° C.

Time to produce a rooted plant, summer.—About 22 days at temperatures ranging from 17° C. to 29° C.

Time to produce a rooted plant, winter.—About 25 days at temperatures ranging from 17° C. to 21° C.

Root description.—Medium in thickness, fibrous; white in color.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching; moderately dense.

Plant description:

Plant and growth habit.—Compact, mounding and outwardly spreading plant habit; freely branching habit with about seven lateral branches; pinching enhances branching; vigorous, dense and bushy growth habit.

Plant height.—About 14.5 cm.

Plant diameter.—About 39 cm.

Lateral branch description:

Length.—About 15 cm.

Diameter.—About 2 mm.

Internode length, vegetative.—About 5 mm.

Internode length, reproductive.—About 2 cm.

Strength.—Strong.

Aspect.—Initially upright to outwardly spreading.

Texture.—Pubescent.

Color.—Close to 146C.

Foliage description:

Arrangement.—Before flowering, alternate, simple; after flowering, opposite, simple.

Length.—About 3.3 cm.

Width.—About 1.1 cm.

Shape.—Oblanceolate.

Apex.—Acute to slightly rounded.

Base.—Attenuate.

Margin.—Entire.

Texture, upper and lower surfaces.—Pubescent.

Venation pattern.—Pinnate; arcuate.

Color.—Developing leaves, upper surface: Close to 144A. Developing leaves, lower surface: Close to 146B. Fully expanded leaves, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 137B; venation, close to 146C.

Petiole.—Length: About 4 mm. Diameter: About 2 mm.

Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Pubescent. *Color, upper and lower surfaces:* Close to 146C.

Flower description:

Flower arrangement and habit.—Single salverform flowers arising from leaf axils; freely flowering habit with usually about 11 to 13 open flowers and flower buds per lateral branch; flowers face upright and outwardly.

Fragrance.—None detected.

Natural flowering season.—Early flowering habit, plants of the new *Calibrachoa* begin flowering about six weeks after planting; plants flower continuously from spring through the autumn in California.

Flower longevity.—Individual flowers last about five to seven days on the plant; flowers persistent.

Flower diameter.—About 3.7 cm.

Flower length (height).—About 2.6 cm.

Flower throat diameter.—About 6 mm by 7 mm.

Flower tube diameter, base.—About 4 mm.

Flower tube length.—About 2.4 cm.

Flower bud.—Shape: Elongated oblong. Length: About 2.3 cm. Diameter: About 7 mm. Color: Close to N187A.

Corolla.—Arrangement: Five petals fused at the base and opening into a flared trumpet. Petal lobe length (from throat): About 1.5 cm. Petal lobe width: About 1.8 cm. Petal shape: Roughly cordate. Petal apex: Emarginate. Petal margin: Entire. Petal texture, upper surface: Smooth, glabrous; velvety. Petal texture, lower surface: Pubescent. Throat texture: Glabrous; granular. Tube texture: Pubescent. Color: Petal lobe, when opening, upper surface: Close to N186A; towards the apex, close to N79C. Petal lobe, when opening, lower surface: Close to N77B. Petal lobe, fully opened, upper surface: Brighter than 71A; towards the throat, close to 202A; color does not fade with development; venation, close to N186B. Petal lobe, fully opened, lower surface: Close to N79D; color does not fade with development; venation, close to N186C. Throat: Close to 152D; venation, close to 148A. Tube: Close to 195B tinted with close to N79D; venation, close to 187B.

Calyx.—Arrangement: One star-shaped calyx tube with five sepals in a single whorl and fused at the base. Sepal length: About 1.6 cm. Sepal width: About 3 mm. Sepal shape: Ligulate. Sepal apex: Acute to rounded. Sepal margin: Entire. Sepal texture, upper and lower surfaces: Pubescent. Color, upper surface: Close to 146A. Color, lower surface: Close to 146A to 146B.

Peduncles.—Length: About 2 cm. Diameter: About 1 mm. Angle: About 30° to 45° from stem axis. Strength: Strong. Texture: Pubescent. Color: Close to 146B.

Reproductive organs.—Stamens: Quantity: About five per flower. Filament length: About 8 mm. Filament color: Close to 145C. Anther shape: Oval. Anther length: About 1.5 mm. Anther color: Close to 155C. Pollen amount: Scarce. Pollen color: Close to 11C. Pistils: Quantity: One per flower. Pistil length: About 1 cm. Style length: About 7 mm. Style color: Close to 145B. Stigma shape: Oval. Stigma color: Close to 144A. Ovary color: Close to 145C. 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 tolerate wind, rain and temperatures ranging from about 1° C. to about 40° C.

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

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct *Calibrachoa* plant named 'USCAL68604' as illustrated and described.

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