

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

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(54) **TORENIA PLANT NAMED ‘SUNREKOBUHO’**

(50) Latin Name: *Torenia* sp.
Varietal Denomination: **Sunrekobuho**

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 64 days.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Torenia* plant named ‘Sunrekobuho’, characterized by its compact and mounding to trailing plant habit; freely branching habit; freely flowering habit; dark violet and light violet blue-colored flowers; and good garden performance.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Botanical designation: *Torenia* sp.

Cultivar denomination: ‘SUNREKOBUHO’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

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

The new *Torenia* 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 compact and freely branching *Torenia* plants with numerous attractive flowers.

The new *Torenia* plant originated from a cross-pollination conducted by the Inventor in Higashiomi, Shiga, Japan in July, 2007 of a proprietary selection of *Torenia* sp, identified as code name TP-1, not patented, as the female, or seed, parent with a proprietary selection of *Torenia* sp. identified as code name TFOEx-BW, not patented, as the male, or pollen, parent. The new *Torenia* 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 March, 2008.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Torenia* plant by vegetative cuttings in a controlled greenhouse environment in Higashiomi, Shiga, Japan since April, 2008, has shown that the unique features of this new *Torenia* plant are stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Plants of the new *Torenia* 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 ‘Sunrekobuho’. These characteristics in combination distinguish ‘Sunrekobuho’ as a new and distinct cultivar of *Torenia*:

1. Compact and mounding to trailing plant habit.
2. Freely branching habit.

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3. Freely flowering habit.

4. Dark violet and light violet blue-colored flowers.

5. Good garden performance.

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

1. Plants of the new *Torenia* are more compact than plants of the female parent selection.
2. Plants of the new *Torenia* are more upright than plants of the female parent selection.
3. Plants of the new *Torenia* and the female parent selection differ in flower color as plants of the female parent selection have violet blue-colored flowers.

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

1. Plants of the new *Torenia* are more compact than plants of the male parent selection.
2. Plants of the new *Torenia* are more upright than plants of the male parent selection.
3. Plants of the new *Torenia* have larger flowers than plants of the male parent selection.

Plants of the new *Torenia* can be compared to plants of *Torenia* ‘Sunrenilabu’, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 10,843. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Higashiomi, Shiga, Japan, plants of the new *Torenia* and ‘Sunrenilabu’ differed in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Torenia* were narrower than plants of ‘Sunrenilabu’.
2. Plants of the new *Torenia* were more upright than plants of ‘Sunrenilabu’.
3. Plants of the new *Torenia* had thicker stems and shorter internodes than plants of ‘Sunrenilabu’.
4. Plants of the new *Torenia* were more freely flowering than plants of ‘Sunrenilabu’.
5. Plants of the new *Torenia* flowered earlier than plants of ‘Sunrenilabu’.
6. Plants of the new *Torenia* and ‘Sunrenilabu’ differed in flower color.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

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

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

The photograph at the bottom of the sheet is a close-up view of a typical flowering plant of 'Sunrekobuho'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The aforementioned photographs and following observations, measurements and values describe plants grown during the summer in 15-cm containers in an outdoor nursery in Higashiomi, Shiga, Japan and under cultural practices typical for commercial *Torenia* production. During the production of the *Torenia* plants, day temperatures averaged 23° C. and night temperatures averaged 15° C. Plants were six 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: *Torenia* sp. 'Sunrekobuho'.

Parentage:

Female, or seed, parent.—Proprietary selection of *Torenia* sp, identified as code name TP-1, not patented.

Male, or pollen, parent.—Proprietary selection of *Torenia* sp. identified as code name TFOEx-BW, not patented.

Propagation:

Type.—By vegetative cuttings.

Time to initiate roots.—About one week at 20° C. to 25° C.

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

Root description.—Fibrous; white in color.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching.

Plant description:

Plant form/habit.—Compact and mounded to trailing plant habit; outwardly spreading; vigorous growth habit; freely branching habit with numerous lateral branches developing per plant, pinching enhances branching potential.

Plant height.—About 18.2 cm.

Plant width (spread).—About 45 cm.

Lateral branches.—Length: About 19 cm. Diameter: About 2.2 mm. Internode length: About 3.1 cm.

Aspect: Upright to decumbent. Texture: Pubescent.

Color: Close to 144C.

Foliage description:

Arrangement.—Opposite, simple.

Length.—About 2.9 cm.

Width.—About 2 cm.

Shape.—Broadly ovate.

Apex.—Acute.

Base.—Truncate to cordate.

Margin.—Serrate.

Texture, upper surface.—Pubescent.

Texture, lower surface.—Smooth, glabrous.

Venation pattern.—Pinnate; reticulate.

Color.—Developing leaves, upper surface: Close to 144A. Developing leaves, lower surface: Close to

145A. Fully expanded leaves, upper surface: Close to 137B; venation, close to 145B. Fully expanded leaves, lower surface: Close to 138B; venation, close to 145B.

Petiole.—Length: About 6.3 mm. Diameter: About 1.5 mm. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 145B.

Flower description:

Flower type/habit.—Single flowers borne in upper leaf axils; corolla bilabiate and calyx tubular; flowers face obliquely upright; freely flowering habit with about 112 flowers developing per plant.

Fragrance.—None detected.

Natural flowering season.—Plants begin flowering about three to four weeks after planting; long flowering period; continuously flowering from early summer to late autumn in Japan.

Postproduction longevity.—Flowers last about four days on the plant.

Flower buds.—Height: About 1.7 cm. Diameter: About 7 mm. Shape: Ellipsoidal. Color: Close to 144B; towards the apex, close to N89A.

Flower diameter.—About 3.2 cm by 2.8 cm.

Flower depth.—About 3.7 cm.

Throat diameter.—About 1 cm.

Tube diameter, base.—About 3.2 mm.

Tube length.—About 2.6 cm.

Petals.—Quantity per flower: Bilabiate with one upper or banner petal and one lower petal with two lateral and one lower lobes, petals fused. Upper petal: Length: About 1.2 cm. Width: About 2.3 cm. Shape: Elliptic. Apex: Mucronate to truncate. Margin: Entire; undulating. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color: Developing, upper surface: Close to NN155B; towards the margins, close to 86A. Developing, lower surface: Close to 92D; towards the margins, close to N88A. Fully developed, upper surface: Close to 91D; towards the margins, close to 86A. Fully developed, lower surface: Close to 92D; towards the margins, close to N88A. Lower petal: Length, lateral lobes: About 1.6 cm. Width, lateral lobes: About 8.9 mm Length, lower lobe: About 1.3 cm. Width, lower lobe: About 1.6 cm. Shape, lateral and lower lobes: Elliptic. Apex, lateral lobes: Truncate. Apex, lower lobe: Truncate to rounded. Margin, lateral and lower lobes: Entire. Texture, lateral and lower lobes, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color, lateral lobes: Developing, upper surface: Darker than 86A. Developing, lower surface: Close to 86A. Fully developed, upper surface: Close to 86A. Fully developed, lower surface: Darker than 86A. Color, lower lobes: Developing, upper surface: Darker than 86A; blotch, close to 8C. Developing, lower surface: Close to N88B. Fully developed, upper surface: More blue than 86A; towards the throat, close to 92C; blotch, close to 6C. Fully developed, lower surface: Close to N88B. Throat color: Close to 92C to 92D; towards the base, close to 6C; fine lines, close to 83A. Tube color: Close to 92C to 92D.

Sepals.—Quantity per flower: Typically five, fused; ellipsoidal; margins winged. Calyx length: About 1.8 cm. Calyx diameter: About 7.6 mm. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color, imma-

ture, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 143C. Color, mature, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 143C.

Peduncles.—Length: About 2.5 cm. Diameter: About 1.3 mm. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: Close to 143C.

Reproductive organs.—Stamens: Quantity per flower: Typically four; two pairs of fused anthers. Filament length: About 4 mm to 11 mm. Anther shape: Ellipsoidal. Anther size: About 3 mm by 0.6 mm. Anther color: Close to 155B. Pollen amount: Scarce. Pollen color: Close to 11B. Pistils: Quantity per flower: One. Pistil length: About 1.8 cm. Stigma shape: Elliptic. Stigma color: Close to 155B. Style color: Close to 155D. Ovary color: Close to 144A.

Seed/fruit.—Seed and fruit development have not been observed on plants of the new *Torenia*.

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

Garden performance: Plants of the new *Torenia* have been observed to have good garden performance and to tolerate rain, wind and temperatures from about 5° C. to about 30° C.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct *Torenia* plant named ‘Sunrekobuho’ as illustrated and described.

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