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(54) **CALIBRACHOA PLANT NAMED**
'USCAL91001'

(50) Latin Name: *Calibrachoa* sp.
Varietal Denomination: **USCAL91001**

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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 0 days.

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(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./413**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** **Plt./413**
See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Calibrachoa* plant named 'USCAL91001', characterized by its compact, upright to outwardly spreading and mounding plant habit; freely branching growth habit; dense and bushy appearance; early and freely flowering habit; red purple-colored flowers with yellow-colored star-shaped pattern and centers; and good garden performance.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Botanical designation: *Calibrachoa* sp.
Cultivar denomination: 'USCAL91001'.

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 'USCAL91001'.

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, unique flower coloration and good garden performance.

The new *Calibrachoa* plant originated from a cross-pollination made by the Inventor on May 11, 2008 in Higashiomi, Shiga, Japan of a proprietary seedling selection of *Calibrachoa* sp. identified as code name CJ08-61, not patented, as the female, or seed, parent with a proprietary seedling selection of *Calibrachoa* sp. identified as code name CJ08-38, 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 27, 2009.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Calibrachoa* plant by terminal cuttings in a controlled environment in Bonsall, Calif. since May 28, 2009 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 and various cultural practices. The phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in environmental conditions 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

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'USCAL91001'. These characteristics in combination distinguish 'USCAL91001' as a new and distinct *Calibrachoa* plant:

1. Compact, upright to outwardly spreading and mounding plant habit.
2. Freely branching growth habit; dense and bushy appearance.
3. Early and freely flowering habit.
4. Red purple-colored flowers with yellow-colored star-shaped pattern and 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 flower color as plants of the female parent selection have cherry pink-colored flowers with red-colored star-shaped pattern.

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 primarily in flower color as plants of the male parent selection have yellow-colored flowers.

Plants of the new *Calibrachoa* can be compared to plants of the *Calibrachoa* 'USCALI17', disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 15,701. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Bonsall, Calif., plants of the new *Calibrachoa* differed primarily from plants of 'USCALI17' in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Calibrachoa* were more mounding than plants of 'USCALI17'.
2. Plants of the new *Calibrachoa* and 'USCALI17' differed in flower color as plants of 'USCALI17' had red purple-colored flowers without a star-shaped pattern.

Plants of the new *Calibrachoa* can be compared to plants of the *Calibrachoa* 'USCALI28', disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 14,847. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Bonsall, Calif., plants of the new *Calibrachoa* differed primarily from plants of 'USCALI28' in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Calibrachoa* were more mounding than plants of 'USCALI28'.

2. Plants of the new *Calibrachoa* and 'USCALI28' differed in flower color as plants of 'USCALI28' had ruby red-colored flowers without a star-shaped pattern.

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 'USCAL91001' grown in a container.

The photograph at the top of the sheet comprises a close-up of a typical flowering plant of 'USCAL91001'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The aforementioned photographs and following observations, measurements and values describe plants grown during the late spring and early summer in 10-cm containers in a polyethylene-covered greenhouse in Bonsall, Calif. During the production of the plants, day temperatures averaged 24° C., night temperatures averaged 18° C. and light levels averaged 7,000 foot-candles. Plants were pinched one time and were seven 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. 'USCAL91001'.

Parentage:

Female, or seed, parent.—Proprietary seedling selection of *Calibrachoa* sp. identified as code name CJ08-61, not patented.

Male, or pollen, parent.—Proprietary seedling selection of *Calibrachoa* sp. identified as code number CJ08-38, 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; medium density.

Plant description:

Plant and growth habit.—Compact, upright to outwardly spreading and mounding plant habit; freely branching habit with about five primary lateral branches each with about three to four secondary lateral branches; pinching enhances branching; moderately vigorous, dense and bushy growth habit.

Plant height.—About 16 cm.

Plant diameter.—About 30 cm by 37 cm.

Lateral branch description:

Length.—About 15 cm.

Diameter.—About 2 mm.

Internode length, vegetative.—About 1 cm.

Internode length, reproductive.—About 1.9 cm.

Strength.—Strong.

Aspect.—Initially upright to outwardly spreading.

Texture.—Pubescent.

Color.—Close to 146C.

Foliage description:

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

Length.—About 2.6 cm.

Width.—About 9 mm.

Shape.—Oblanceolate.

Apex.—Rounded.

Base.—Attenuate.

Margin.—Entire.

Texture, upper and lower surfaces.—Pubescent.

Venation pattern.—Pinnate; arcuate.

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

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

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

Flower description:

Flower arrangement and habit.—Single salverform flowers arising from leaf axils; freely flowering habit with usually about 25 to 27 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 days on the plant; flowers persistent.

Flower diameter.—About 3.6 cm.

Flower length (height).—About 2.9 cm.

Flower throat diameter.—About 8 mm by 10 mm.

Flower tube length.—About 2 cm.

Flower tube diameter, base.—About 2.5 mm.

Flower bud.—Shape: Elongated oblong. Length: About 2.3 cm. Diameter: About 6 mm. Color: Close to 145D.

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 1.7 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: Smooth, glabrous. Tube texture: Pubescent. Color: Petal lobe, when opening, upper surface: Close to N186D. Petal lobe, when opening, lower surface: Close to 198D. Petal lobe, fully opened, upper surface: Brighter than 71A; towards the throat, close to 187A; star-shaped pattern, close to 13B; primary color becoming closer to 71 C with development; venation, close to 71A. Petal lobe, fully opened, lower surface: Close to N77B; venation, close to 187B. Throat: Close to 12B; venation, close to 145C. Tube: Close to 195B; venation, close to 187C.

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 to narrowly elliptical. Sepal apex: Acute. Sepal margin: Entire. Sepal texture, upper and lower surfaces: Pubescent. Color, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 146C.

Peduncles.—Length: About 1.5 cm. Diameter: About 1 mm. Angle: About 30° to 45° from stem axis. Strength: Strong. Texture: Pubescent. Color: Close to 146D.

Reproductive organs.—Stamens: Quantity: About five per flower. Filament length: About 7 mm. Filament color: Close to 145D. Anther shape: Oval. Anther length: About 1 mm. Anther color: Close to 5D. Pollen amount: Scarce. Pollen color: Close to 6B. Pistils: Quantity: One per flower. Pistil length: About 1.2 cm. Style length: About 8 mm. Style color: Close to 145D.

Stigma shape: Oval. Stigma color: Close to 144A. Ovary color: Close to 145C. Seeds and fruits: Seed and fruit development have not been observed on plants of the new *Calibrachoa*.

5 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 'USCAL91001' as illustrated and described.

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