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(54) ***OSTEOSPERMUM* PLANT NAMED 'KLEOE10180'**

(50) Latin Name: ***Osteospermum ecklonis* Norl.**
Varietal Denomination: **KLEOE10180**

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(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./360**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** Plt./360
See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

An *Osteospermum* variety named 'KLEOE10180' particularly distinguished by a stable uniformly enlarged disc floret corolla is disclosed.

1 Drawing Sheet

Genus and species: *Osteospermum ecklonis* Norl.
Variety denomination: 'KLEOE10180'.

BACKGROUND OF THE NEW PLANT

The present invention comprises a new and distinct variety of *Osteospermum* plant, botanically known as *Osteospermum ecklonis* Norl., and hereinafter referred to by the variety name 'KLEOE10180'. The new variety originated from a controlled cross conducted in June 2007 in Stuttgart, Germany. The female parent was a proprietary *Osteospermum* plant named 'V 34' (unpatented), and the male parent was a proprietary *Osteospermum* plant named 'Mutant 1' (unpatented). A single plant selection was subsequently chosen for further evaluation and for asexual propagation.

The new variety was first propagated via vegetative cuttings in April 2008 in Stuttgart, Germany and has been asexually reproduced repeatedly by vegetative cuttings over three to four generations. The present invention has been found to retain its distinctive characteristics through successive asexual propagations via vegetative cuttings.

Plant Breeder's Rights for this variety were applied for in Switzerland on Jun. 29, 2010, European Union on Jul. 9, 2010, Norway on Sep. 15, 2010, and Canada on Feb. 15, 2011. 'KLEOE10180' has not been made publicly available or sold more than one year prior to the filing date of this application.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The following are the most outstanding and distinguishing characteristics of the new variety when grown under normal horticultural practices in Stuttgart, Germany.

1. Stable uniformly enlarged disc floret corolla.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH

This new *Osteospermum* plant is illustrated by the accompanying photograph which shows a whole plant, including the blooms, buds, and foliage. The colors shown are as true as can be reasonably obtained by conventional photographic procedures. The photograph was taken in Summer 2010 of a

7-month old plant in the field in Stuttgart, Germany, under conditions which approximate those generally used in normal horticultural practice.

DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW VARIETY

The following detailed descriptions set forth the distinctive characteristics of 'KLEOE10180'. The data which define these characteristics were collected from asexual reproductions carried out in Stuttgart, Germany. The plant history was taken in the Summer of 2010 on 7-month old plants which were potted at 4 weeks in 12 centimeter containers and then planted outdoors in the ground in May 2010. The plants were pinched once at 6 weeks. Color readings were taken under natural light. Color references are primarily to The R.H.S. Colour Chart of The Royal Horticultural Society of London (R.H.S.), Fifth Edition (2007).

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW PLANT

Classification:
Family.—Asteraceae.
Botanical name.—*Osteospermum ecklonis* Norl.
Common name.—African daisy.

Plant:
Form and habit.—Herbaceous perennial; usually cultivated as an annual.
Growth habit.—Vigorous.
Branching habit.—Freely branching.
Height (from top of soil).—28.0 cm.
Width (including inflorescences).—27.0 cm.
Propagation.—Vegetative cuttings.
Time to produce a finished flowering plant.—Approximately 14 weeks.
Time to initiate and develop roots.—3 weeks.
Root description.—Freely rooting.

Leaves:
Arrangement.—Arranged in a whorl.
Shape.—Dentiform.
Apex.—Acute.
Base.—Acute.
Margin.—Serrate.

Color.—Immature leaf: Upper surface: RHS 141B. Lower surface: RHS 143A. Mature leaf: Upper surface: RHS N141A. Lower surface: RHS N146B.
Length.—6.5 cm.
Width.—2.5 cm.
Texture.—Leathery.
Petiole.—Absent.

Stems:
Total number of branches at base of plant.—Approximately 5 (calculated at the base of the plant).
Length.—Approximately 28.0 cm.
Diameter.—4.0 mm.
Internode length.—Approximately 1.0 cm.
Color.—RHS 139D.
Texture.—Rough.

Inflorescence buds:
Shape.—Obovate.
Length.—1.0 cm.
Diameter.—9.0 mm.
Color (*at tight bud just before the ray florets unfold*).—RHS 137C.

Inflorescence:
Type.—Single.
Blooming habit.—Spring to Fall.
Quantity of inflorescences per plant.—25.
Lastingness of the inflorescences on the plant.—10 to 14 days.
Fragrance.—Absent.
Inflorescence diameter.—Approximately 5.5 cm.
Disc diameter.—Approximately 4.0 cm.

Disc florets:
Quantity per inflorescence.—Approximately 130.
Shape.—Oblanceolate.
Tube color.—Closed: RHS 76B and RHS N77C. Mature: RHS 76C.
Length.—Approximately 2.0 mm.
Diameter (*at apex*).—Approximately 2.0 mm.
Apex.—Acute.
Apex color.—RHS N77C.
Base.—Tube shaped.
Margin.—Entire.

Ray florets:
Quantity per inflorescence.—Approximately 22.
Shape.—Oblanceolate.
Color.—Upper surface: RHS 77C and RHS 75D. Lower surface: RHS 85A.
Length.—Approximately 2.6 cm.
Width.—Approximately 9.0 mm.
Apex.—Obtuse.
Base.—Acute.
Margin.—Entire.
Texture.—Smooth.

Peduncle:
Length.—Approximately 9.0 cm.
Diameter.—Approximately 2.0 mm.
Texture.—Rough.
Color.—RHS 143A.

Phyllaries:
Arrangement.—Single.
Observed quantity per plant.—20.
Shape.—Lanceolate.
Color.—Upper surface: RHS 137C. Lower surface: RHS 137D.
Length.—1.0 cm.
Width.—1.8 mm.
Apex.—Acute.
Base.—Obtuse.
Margin.—Entire.
Texture.—Rough.

Reproductive organs:
Androecium.—Location: Located at the base of the disc floret corolla. Stamens: Quantity: 130. Shape: Filamentous. Color: RHS N77C and RHS N81D. Filament length: 0.45 cm. Filament diameter: 0.2 mm. Anther: Shape: Elliptic. Color: RHS N77C. Length: Approximately 2.0 mm. Diameter: Approximately 0.5 mm. Pollen: Color: RHS N21A. Amount: Sparse.
Gynoecium.—Location: Located at the base of the ray florets; pistils in disc flowers are degenerated and non-functional. Pistils: Number: Approximately 22. Length: Approximately 9.0 mm. Diameter: Approximately 1.2 mm. Stigma: Color: RHS 83B. Shape: Bipartite. Length: 2.0 mm. Diameter: 0.1 mm. Style: Color: RHS 92D. Length: 5.0 mm. Diameter: 0.2 mm. Shape: Elliptic.

Fruit and seed set: Seed set was observed.

COMPARISON WITH PARENTAL AND COMMERCIAL VARIETIES

'KLEOE10180' differs from the female parent, the proprietary *Osteospermum* plant named 'V 34' in that 'KLEOE10180' has a stable uniformly enlarged disc floret corolla, while 'V 34' has a normal disc floret corolla. Lastly, 'KLEOE10180' has a medium vigorous growth habit, while 'V 34' has a compact growth habit.

'KLEOE10180' differs from the male parent, the proprietary *Osteospermum* plant named 'Mutant 1' in that 'KLEOE10180' has a stable uniformly enlarged disc floret corolla, while 'Mutant 1' has a partially enlarged disc floret corolla. Lastly, 'KLEOE10180' has a stripy purple flower color, while 'Mutant 1' has a pink purple flower color.

There are no available commercial varieties that are comparable to 'KLEOE10180'.

We claim:

1. A new and distinct variety of *Osteospermum* plant named 'KLEOE10180' as shown and described herein.

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