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Schoone

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(54) **PHALAEOPSIS ORCHID PLANT NAMED**
'SILVER LIGHT'

(50) Latin Name: *Phalaenopsis* hybrid
Varietal Denomination: **Silver Light**

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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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(30) **Foreign Application Priority Data**

Apr. 27, 2011 (NL) PBR OPS791

(51) **Int. Cl.**
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(52) **U.S. Cl.**
USPC **Plt./311**

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

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct *Phalaenopsis* plant named 'Silver Light' particularly characterized by flowers which are white with some green/yellow and a light tinge of purple; the labellum is white with yellow and purple; plants which may be propagated economically and uniformly using tissue culture; plants which produce more than one inflorescence; long and sturdy inflorescences; and relatively short, dark-green foliage.

3 Drawing Sheets

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Latin name of the genus and species of the plant claimed:
Phalaenopsis hybrid.

Variety denomination: 'Silver Light'.

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application No. 61/478,814, filed Apr. 25, 2011 and Netherlands Plant Breeders' Rights Application No. OPS791, filed Apr. 27, 2011. The disclosure of both prior applications are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of *Phalaenopsis* plant, botanically known as *Phalaenopsis* of the Orchidaceae family, and hereinafter referred to by the cultivar name 'Silver Light'.

Phalaenopsis comprises a genus of about 55 species of herbaceous perennials many of which, or the hybrids thereof, are suitable for cultivation in the home or greenhouse. *Phalaenopsis* is predominantly epiphytic or rock-dwelling, and is native to tropical Asia, the Malay Archipelago, and Oceania. The species typically has 2-ranked, fleshy, oblong or elliptic leaves affixed to a short central stem (monopodial growth), which vary in size from 5 to 8 inches to over 2 feet. The leaves may be entirely green or mottled with silver grey.

Phalaenopsis orchids, often referred to as 'Moth Orchids' in the horticultural trade, are frequently used to furnish cut flowers for the florist trade or sold as flowering potted-plants for home or interiorscape.

Phalaenopsis produces upright or pendent lateral racemes, often with many showy flowers which open in succession beginning with the lowermost. The flowers possess three

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sepals and three petals; the lateral ones being alike. The lowermost petal, called the labellum, is three-lobed and is often more brightly-colored than the other flower segments. Flower colors include various shades of pink, white, yellow and red-brown.

Phalaenopsis orchids are typically propagated from seeds. Asexual propagation of *Phalaenopsis* is often done from off-shoots which frequently arise from the lower bracts of the inflorescence. The resulting plants are detached from the mother plant and may be planted in a suitable substrate.

The new *Phalaenopsis* 'Silver Light' is a product of a controlled breeding program conducted by the inventor, René Schoone, in Strengweg, Heemskerk, The Netherlands. The objective of the breeding program was to develop a new *Phalaenopsis* cultivar particularly characterized by its attractive and unique colored flowers, economical propagation via tissue culture, rapid growth, and a plant dimension suitable for packaging and shipping to the market.

The new *Phalaenopsis* 'Silver Light' originated from a cross made by the inventor in 1998 in Strengweg, Heemskerk, The Netherlands. The female or seed parent is the *Phalaenopsis* cultivar designated '(Winter Kaalaxamabilis)', unpatented. The male or pollen parent is the *Phalaenopsis* cultivar designated 'Spring Song', unpatented. The new *Phalaenopsis* 'Silver Light' was discovered and selected by the inventor as a single flowering plant within the progeny of the stated cross in a controlled environment in 2006 in Strengweg, Heemskerk, The Netherlands.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Phalaenopsis* cultivar by tissue culture was first performed in November, 2006 in Cieweg 13, Heemskerk, The Netherlands, and has demonstrated that the combination of characteristics as herein disclosed for the new cultivar are firmly fixed and retained

through successive generations of asexual reproduction. The new cultivar reproduces true to type.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and are determined to be unique characteristics of 'Silver Light', which in combination distinguish this *Phalaenopsis* as a new and distinct cultivar:

1. flowers which are white with some green/yellow and a light tinge of purple; the labellum is white with yellow and purple;
2. plant produces more than one inflorescence;
3. plants may be propagated economically and uniformly using tissue culture;
4. inflorescences are long and sturdy; and
5. relatively short, dark-green foliage.

In comparison with the parental cultivars of 'Silver Light', the female parent '(Winter Kaalaxamabilis)' has white flowers and they are about 10 cm high, the male parent 'Spring Song' has white colored flowers and they are about 12 cm high, whereas the flowers of 'Silver Light' are white with some green/yellow and a light tinge of purple and are about 10 cm high.

Presently there is no commercial cultivar to which 'Silver Light' can be meaningfully compared.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying photographs illustrate the overall appearance of the new *Phalaenopsis* 'Silver Light' showing the colors as true as is reasonably possible with 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 color of 'Silver Light'.

FIG. 1 shows a side view perspective of a typical flowering plant of 'Silver Light' in a 12 cm pot, at 16 months of age.

FIG. 2 shows a close-up view of the typical buds and flowers of 'Silver Light'.

FIG. 3 shows a close-up view of the typical leaves of 'Silver Light'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The new *Phalaenopsis* cultivar 'Silver Light' has not been observed under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype of the new cultivar may vary with variations in environment such as temperature, light intensity, and day length without any change in the genotype of the plant.

The aforementioned photographs, together with the following observations, measurements and values describe plants of 'Silver Light' as grown in a greenhouse in Strengweg, Heemskerk, The Netherlands, under conditions which closely approximate those generally used in commercial practice. Initially, the ideal temperature to grow plants of 'Silver Light' is 27° C. during the day and at night. Then, during the flowering phase of 'Silver Light', the ideal growing temperature is 20-22° C. during the day and 18° C. at night. Light levels for growing 'Silver Light' are a minimum of 5,000 lux and a maximum of 10,000 lux. A balanced fertilizer with level of 200 ppm N, 87 ppm P, 168 ppm K is applied. Duration of growth of 'Silver Light' from potting size is between 10 and 14 months.

Color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart (R.H.S.), 2007 edition, except where gen-

eral colors of ordinary significance are used. Color values were taken under daylight conditions at approximately noon in Zaandammerweg, Assendelft, The Netherlands. The age of the 'Silver Light' plants described is 12 months after potting.

Classification:

Botanical.—*Phalaenopsis* hybrid.

Parentage:

Female or seed parent.—*Phalaenopsis* cultivar designated '(Winter Kaalaxamabilis)', unpatented.

Male or pollen parent.—*Phalaenopsis* cultivar designated 'Spring Song', unpatented.

Propagation:

Type.—Tissue culture.

Rooting habit and description.—Fleshy; approximately 4 mm-6 mm wide and greyed/green in color (RHS 190B and RHS 195A); freely branching. It takes 12 weeks for plants growing in tissue culture to initiate roots.

Plant:

Size at maturity.—Height: about 61 cm. Spread: about 52 cm.

Growth habit.—Standard; green (RHS 137B) leaves and a relatively normal raceme.

Vigor.—Moderate.

Crop time.—Following asexual propagation, at about 26 weeks 2 leaves appear; at about 30 weeks 3-4 leaves appear; after a cold treatment of about 4-8 weeks at a temperature of about 19° C. about 2 peduncles with flowers appear.

Foliage:

Quantity per plant.—About 6 leaves are produced before flowering.

Arrangement and attachment.—Half up/horizontal and on two sides.

Overall shape of leaf.—Oval, the tip is blunt and asymmetric.

Texture (upper & underside).—Smooth and leathery.

Pubescence.—None.

Mature leaf length.—About 23 cm to 26 cm.

Mature leaf width.—About 9 cm to 10 cm.

Mature leaf thickness.—About 1.5 mm.

Mature leaf color.—Upper side: green RHS 137B.

Under side: yellow-green RHS 146B.

Leaf base.—Acute.

Margin.—Entire.

Venation.—Pattern: parallel. Color of midvein: upper side: green RHS 137B. under side: yellow-green RHS 146B.

Raceme:

Quantity per plant.—About 1 to 3.

Number of flowers per raceme.—About 5 to 8.

Length.—About 52 cm to 67 cm.

Diameter.—About 6 mm.

Strength.—Strong.

Aspect.—Upright.

Texture.—Glabrous and smooth.

Color.—A combination of brown (RHS N200A) with yellow-green spots (RHS 144B).

Internode.—Length: about 35 mm to 50 mm.

Inflorescence description:

Appearance.—Upright to slightly pendant, racemose inflorescence with bilaterally symmetrical flowers that open in succession beginning with the lowermost flower.

Buds.—Height (from base to tip): about 15 mm to 30 mm. Diameter (at midpoint): about 15 mm to 25 mm. Shape: egg-shaped. Color: yellow-green (RHS 145B and RHS 145C) with a purple haze (RHS N79C).

Flowering time.—For an untreated plant (flowering 5 plant that has not undergone cold-treatment where the plant grows at a temperature of 18° C. to 19° C. for about 4 to 8 weeks after a period of about 30 weeks at a temperature of 25° C.), 2 racemes appear with about 16 to 20 flower buds and flowers per inflorescence. 10 First flowers can be expected approximately 4 to 6 months after planting a plant with a leaf diameter of 3 to 5 cm. Flowers persistent.

Flowering longevity.—On the plant: about 4 to 6 15 months; lastingness of cut flowers: has not been observed.

Fragrance.—No fragrance.

Flower.—Rate of opening: Flowers fully opened about 2 to 3 days after petal and sepal separation. Orientation at opening: slanted upward and outward. Shape: Typi- 20 cal shape of *phalaenopsis* orchid; see FIG. 2. Size: Height: about 82 mm. Diameter: about 103 mm. Depth of tube: about 23 mm.

Petals.—Quantity and arrangement: six petals and 25 sepals that are trimerous, overlapping and arranged in 2 whorls. Petals are more pronounced than sepals. Arrangement: Inner whorl of petals comprises 3 petals, 2 lateral petals and labellum. 2 lateral petals: Overall shape: broadly ovate and weakly cupped. 30 Apex: ovate. Margin: entire and weakly undulate. Base: broadly ovate. Length: about 63 mm. Width: about 45 mm. Texture: Upper surface: smooth and satiny. Under surface: smooth and satiny. Color (when fully opened): upper surface: white (RHS NN 155C). 35 Under surface: white (RHS NN155C). Labellum: Overall shape: 3-lobed with 2 prominent callosities at central junction of the lateral lobes and base of the midlobe. Lateral lobes of labellum fold upward about the column; the midlobe extends forward and is terminated by 2 short filiform appendages at the apex. 40 Lateral lobes of the labellum are ovate in shape while the midlobe is triangular with a bump and a rib on it. Margin: entire and weakly undulate. Apex: ovate. Length: about 25 mm. Width (not flattened): about 27 45 mm. Texture: Upper & under surface: smooth and satiny. Color (when fully opened): Upper surface: The main color is White (RHS NN155C). At the base some purple/red stripes (RHS 64A). The bottom of the lateral lobes and on top of the midlobe is green-

yellow (RHS 1A). Bottom edge of lateral lobes and top edge of midlobe is purple/red (RHS 64A). Under surface: Midlobe: main color is white (RHS NN155C). At the corners some green-yellow (RHS 1A) and at the base some purple/red (RHS 64A). Lateral lobes: main color is white (RHS N155C). Bottom edges are green-yellow (RHS 1A). Closer to the base also some purple/red (RHS 64A) on the edges. Chirri: about 30 mm (long and curly). Color: white (RHS NN155C) with green-yellow at the end (RHS 1A). Pestle (Callosities): Length: 4 mm. Width (not flattened): 6 mm. Color: yellow (RHS 12A) with purple/red stripes/spots (RHS 64A). Pedicel: Length: about 36 mm and 49 mm. Diameter: about 4 mm. Texture: glabrous and smooth. Color: yellow/green (RHS 145C with RHS 146C).

Sepals.—Arrangement: Outer whorl comprises 3 sepals. Overall shape: Elliptical and weakly cupped. Margin: entire and weakly undulate. Length: about 45 mm to 50 mm. Width: about 30 mm to 35 mm. Apex: oval/round. Texture: Upper and under surface: smooth and satiny. Color (when fully opened): Upper surface: main color is white (RHS NN155C) with some green-yellow (RHS 1C) and a light tinge of purple (RHS N78C). Under surface: white (RHS NN155C) with in the center yellow-green (RHS 145C). At the midvein and at the tip also some purple (RHS N78A).

Reproductive organs:

Arrangement.—The stamens, style and stigmas are fused into a single, short structure called the column, possessing one terminal anther with pollen grains united into a pollinia, which are covered by an anther cap. The stigma is located under the column behind the pollinia. The ovary is inferior with three carpels present. The plant has not produced seed.

Column.—Length: about 10 mm. Diameter: about 8 mm. Color: white (RHS NN155C).

Pollinia.—Quantity: Two. Diameter: about 2 mm. Color: orange (RHS 24A).

Ovary.—Length: about 7 mm. Diameter: about 7 mm. Color: white (RHS NN155C).

Disease/pest resistance/susceptibility: No specific resistance or susceptibility observed.

Temperature tolerance: Tolerant to a low temperature of about 15° C. and to a high temperature about 30° C.

What is claimed is:

1. A new and distinct *Phalaenopsis* plant named 'Silver Light', as illustrated and described herein.

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FIG. 1



FIG. 2

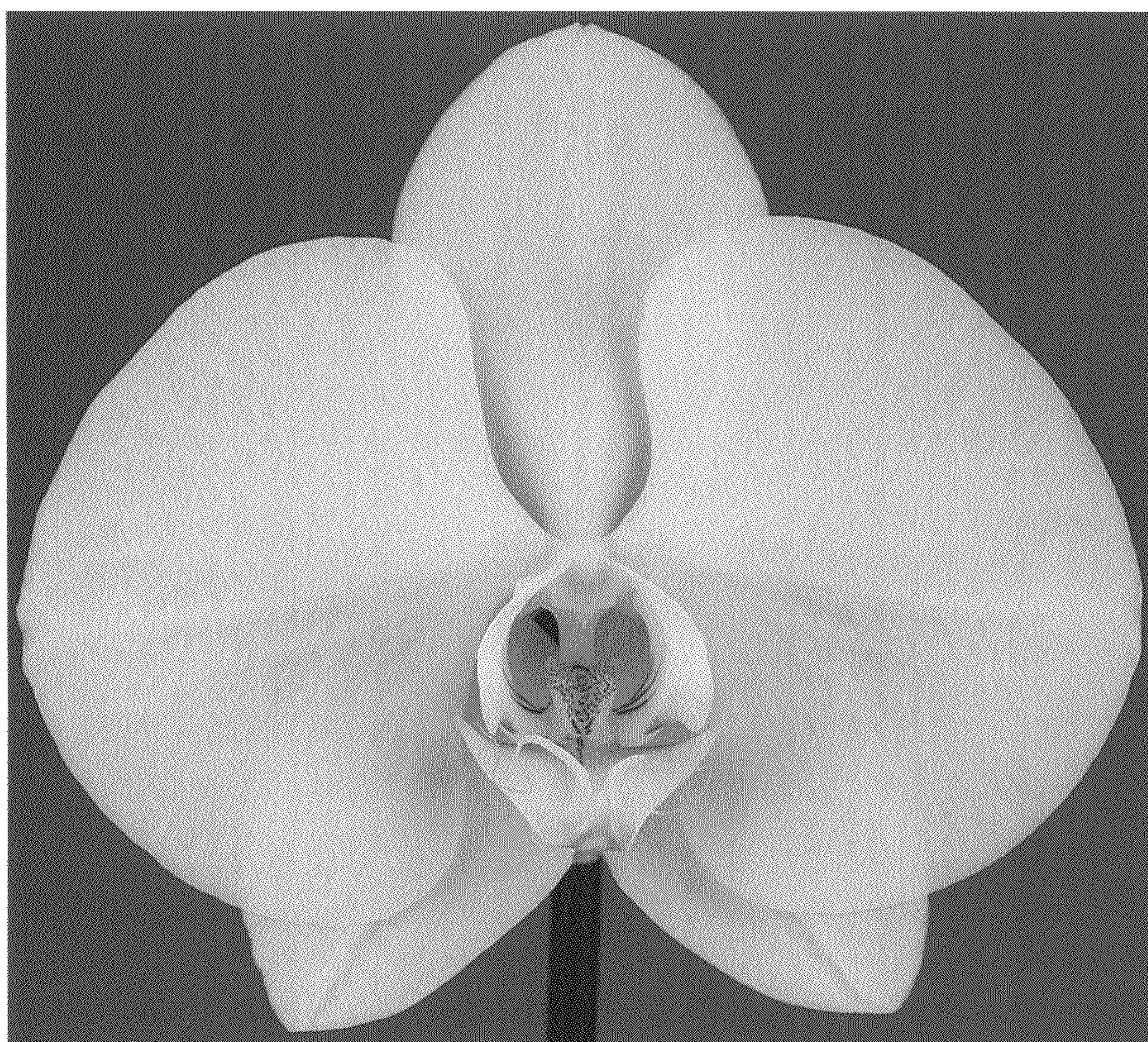


FIG. 3

