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

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(54) ***PETUNIA* PLANT NAMED 'BALPELITE'**

(50) Latin Name: ***Petunia×hybrida***
Varietal Denomination: **Balpelite**

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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 85 days.

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(52) **U.S. Cl.**
USPC ..... **Plt./356.13**; Plt./356.1; Plt./356.22

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Petunia* plant named 'Balpelite', characterized by its semi-double type flowers, colored red-purple with a lime-green edging, medium green-colored foliage, and low growth vigor, with a compact-mounded growth habit, is disclosed.

**1 Drawing Sheet**



Latin name of genus and species of plant claimed: *Petunia× hybrida.*

Variety denomination: 'Balpelite'.

## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of *Petunia* plant botanically known as *Petunia×hybrida* and hereinafter referred to by the cultivar name 'Balpelite'.

The new cultivar originated in a controlled breeding program in Elburn, Ill. during January 2008. The objective of the breeding program was the development of *Petunia* cultivars with unique and attractive flower coloration.

The new *Petunia* cultivar is the result of cross-pollination. The female (seed) parent of the new cultivar is the proprietary *Petunia×hybrida* breeding selection coded 2826-4, not patented, characterized by its single-type, purple-pictoee colored flowers, medium green-colored foliage, low growth vigor, and compact-mounded growth habit. The male (pollen) parent of the new cultivar is the proprietary *Petunia×hybrida* breeding selection coded 5458F-4-2-3-1-1, U.S. Pat. No. 7,642,436, characterized by its single-type, purple-colored flowers having prominent venation and a green edge, medium green-colored foliage, and moderately vigorous, compact-mounded growth habit. The new cultivar was discovered and selected as a single flowering plant within the progeny of the above stated cross-pollination during January 2009 in a controlled environment in Elburn, Ill.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by terminal stem cuttings January 2009 in West Chicago, Ill. has demonstrated that the new cultivar reproduces true to type with all of the characteristics, as herein described, firmly fixed and retained through successive generations of such asexual propagation.

## SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The following characteristics of the new cultivar have been repeatedly observed and can be used to distinguish 'Balpelite' as a new and distinct cultivar of *Petunia* plant:

1. Semi-double type flowers, colored red-purple with a lime-green edging;



2. Medium green-colored foliage; and
3. Low growth vigor, with a compact-mounded growth habit.

Plants of the new cultivar differ from plants of the female and male parents primarily in flower type and flower color.

Of the many commercially available *Petunia* cultivars, the most similar in comparison to the new cultivar is SUPERTUNIAS, PRETTY MUCH PICASSO 'BHTUN31501', U.S. Plant Pat. No. 21,649. However, in comparison, plants of the new cultivar differ from plants of 'BHTUN31501' in at least the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new cultivar have a semi-double flower type that is different from plants of 'BHTUN31501'; and
2. Plants of the new cultivar have a growth habit that is more compact, as measured by plant width, than plants of 'BHTUN31501'.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying photographs show, as nearly true as it is reasonably possible to make the same in color illustrations of this type, typical flower and foliage characteristics of the new cultivar. Colors in the photographs differ slightly from the color values cited in the detailed description, which accurately describes the colors of 'Balpelite'. The plants were grown in 4-inch pots for 8 weeks in a greenhouse in West Chicago, Ill.

FIG. **1** illustrates a side view of the overall growth and flowering habit of 'Balpelite'.

FIG. **2** illustrates a close-up view of an individual flower of 'Balpelite'.

## DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The new cultivar has not been observed under all possible environmental conditions to date. Accordingly, it is possible that the phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in the environment, such as temperature, light intensity, and day length, without, however, any variance in genotype.

The chart used in the identification of colors described herein is The R.H.S. Colour Chart of The Royal Horticultural

Society, London, England, 2007 edition, except where general color terms of ordinary significance are used. The color values were determined in June 2012 under natural light conditions in West Chicago, Ill.

The following descriptions and measurements describe plants produced from cuttings from stock plants and grown in a glass-covered greenhouse under conditions comparable to those used in commercial practice. The plants were grown in West Chicago, Ill. in 4-inch pots for 8 weeks utilizing a soilless growth medium. Greenhouse temperatures were maintained at approximately 70° F. to 77° F. (21° C. to 25° C.) during the day and approximately 65° F. to 68° F. (18° C. to 20° C.) during the night. Greenhouse light levels of 2,500 footcandles to 6,000 footcandles were maintained during the day. Measurements and numerical values represent averages of typical plants.

Botanical classification: *Petunia×hybrida* cultivar Balpelite.

Parentage:

*Female parent.*—Proprietary *Petunia×hybrida* breeding selection coded 2826-4, not patented.

*Male parent.*—Proprietary *Petunia×hybrida* breeding selection coded 5458F-4-2-3-1-1, U.S. Pat. No. 7,642,436.

Propagation:

*Type cutting.*—Terminal stem.

*Time to initiate roots.*—Approximately 6 to 9 days.

*Time to produce a rooted cutting.*—Approximately 21 to 28 days.

*Root description.*—Fibrous.

*Rooting habit.*—Freely branching.

Plant description:

*Commercial crop time.*—Approximately 6 to 8 weeks from a rooted cutting to finish in a 10 cm pot.

*Growth habit and general appearance.*—Low vigor, compact-mounded.

*Size.*—Height from soil level to top of plant plane: Approximately 14.5 cm. Width: Approximately 21.2 cm.

*Branching habit.*—Freely branching, pinching improves basal branching. Quantity of main branches per plant: Approximately 4.

*Branch.*—Strength: Moderate. Length: Approximately 9.5 cm. Diameter: Approximately 4.0 mm. Length of central internode: Approximately 7.0 mm. Texture: Densely glandular pubescent with a mixture of long and short hairs. Gland color: Colorless. Color of young stem: 145A. Color of mature stem: 145A occasionally with an overlay of 187A.

Foliage description:

*General description.*—Quantity of leaves per main branch: Approximately 10. Fragrance: Slight. Form: Simple. Arrangement on flowering stem: Opposite.

*Leaves.*—Aspect: Acute angle to stem. Shape: Ovate to elliptic. Margin: Entire, slightly wavy. Apex: Broadly acute. Base: Attenuate. Venation pattern: Pinnate. Length of mature leaf: Approximately 5.8 cm. Width of mature leaf: Approximately 3.6 cm. Texture of upper surface: Sparsely glandular pubescent. Texture of lower surface: Moderately glandular pubescent. Gland color: Colorless. Color of upper surface of young and mature foliage: 137A with venation of 144B to indistinguishable. Color of lower surface of young and mature foliage: 138B with venation of 144B to indistinguishable.

*Petiole.*—Length: Approximately 9.0 mm. Width: Approximately 4.0 mm. Texture: Densely glandular pubescent with a mixture of long and short hairs. Gland color: Colorless. Color: 144B.

Flowering description:

*Flowering habit.*—'Balpelite' is freely flowering under outdoor growing conditions with substantially continuous blooming from spring through autumn and year-round in greenhouse environment.

*Lastingness of individual flower on the plant.*—Approximately 10 to 12 days.

Flower description:

*General description.*—Type: Semi-double, salverform. Quantity per plant: Approximately 20. Fragrance: Slight.

*Bud.*—Rate of opening: Generally takes 2 to 3 days for bud to progress from first color to fully open flower. Quantity per plant: Approximately 4.

*Bud just before opening.*—Shape: Oblong. Length: Approximately 3.2 cm. Diameter at apex: Approximately 1.1 cm. Diameter at base: Approximately 3.0 mm. Texture: Densely glandular pubescent. Gland color: Colorless. Color of petals: 144A. Color of tube: N79B with venation of N79A.

*Corolla.*—Diameter: Approximately 4.5 cm.

*Petals.*—Quantity: 5 primary, fused to form a tube and approximately 5 to 6 irregularly shaped petaloids arranged in a single whorl. Shape: Obovate. Appearance: Dull. Margin: Entire, wavy. Apex: Rounded. Length from tube: Approximately 2.1 cm. Length of free portion: Approximately 1.1 cm. Width: Approximately 2.2 cm. Texture of upper surface: Glabrous. Texture of lower surface: Sparsely glandular pubescent. Gland color: Colorless. Color of upper surface when first open: N74A and N74B with margins of 144A and midveins of N79A. Color of lower surface when first and fully open: N74D with margins and midveins of 144B. Color of upper surface when fully open: N74B and N74C with margins of 144A to 144B and midveins of N79A.

*Corolla tube.*—Length: Approximately 2.7 cm. Diameter at distal end: Approximately 1.0 cm. Diameter at proximal end: Approximately 3.0 mm. Texture of inner surface: Glabrous. Texture of outer surface: Densely glandular pubescent. Gland color: Colorless. Color of inner surface: N74D and N79D with venation of N79A. Color of outer surface: N79D with venation of 144B.

*Sepals.*—Quantity per flower: 5, fused at base. Shape: Linear. Margin: Entire, slightly wavy. Apex: Rounded. Length: Approximately 1.2 cm. Width: Approximately 3.0 mm. Texture of upper and lower surfaces: Densely glandular pubescent. Gland color: Colorless. Color of upper surface: 137A transitioning to 145B at base. Color of lower surface: 137B transitioning to 144B at base.

*Peduncle.*—Strength: Strong. Aspect: Acute angle to stem. Length: Approximately 1.1 cm. Diameter: Approximately 2.0 mm. Texture: Densely glandular pubescent with a mixture of long and short hairs. Gland color: Colorless. Color: 145A, occasionally with an overlay of N79A.

*Reproductive organs.*—Androecium: Stamen quantity: 5, basifixed with an irregular-shaped petaloid attached at apex. Stamen length: Approximately 2.2

to base of petaloid cm. Filament length of fixed portion: Approximately 8.0 mm. Filament color: 145D with a faint overlay of N79A. Anther shape: Bilobed. Anther length: Approximately 1.0 mm. Anther color: 155A. Pollen amount: Sparse. Pollen color: 155D. Gynoecium: Pistil quantity: 1 per flower. Pistil length: Approximately 2.2 cm. Stigma shape: Funnel. Stigma length: Approximately 2.0 mm. Stigma color: 144D. Style length: Approximately 1.6 cm. Style color: 145C. Ovary length: Approximately 4.0 mm. Ovary color: 144A.

Seed and fruit production: Neither seed nor fruit production has been observed.

Disease and pest resistance: Resistance to pathogens and pests common to *Petunia* has not been observed.

What is claimed is:

**1**. A new and distinct cultivar of *Petunia* plant named 'Balpelite', substantially as herein shown and described.

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FIG. 1

FIG. 2