

US00PP24422P3

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

(10) **Patent No.:** **US PP24,422 P3**  
(45) **Date of Patent:** **May 6, 2014**

(54) **RUELLIA PLANT NAMED ‘R10-102’**

(50) Latin Name: ***Ruellia simplex***  
Varietal Denomination: **R10-102**

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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 88 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **13/507,163**

(22) Filed: **Jun. 8, 2012**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**  
US 2013/0333084 P1 Dec. 12, 2013

(51) **Int. Cl.**  
**A01H 5/00** (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**  
USPC ..... **Plt./226**; Plt./263.1

(58) **Field of Classification Search**  
USPC ..... Plt./263.1, 226  
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**  
**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**  
PP10,841 P 3/1999 Grant et al.

**OTHER PUBLICATIONS**  
Freyre et al., “Breeding and evaluating for landscape performance and fruitlessness in Mexican petunia (*Ruellia*, Acanthaceae),” *HortScience*, 47:1245-1251, 2012.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**  
‘R10-102’ is a new *Ruellia* plant distinguished by having excellent landscape performance, violet flowers, and no fruiting, as disclosed.

**2 Drawing Sheets**

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**STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY  
SPONSORED RESEARCH**

The U.S. government has certain rights in this invention, pursuant to TSTAR Grant No. 00093296 awarded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

Latin name of the genus and species of the plant claimed: *Ruellia simplex*.

Variety denomination: ‘R10-102’.

The present invention relates to a new and distinct variety of *Ruellia*, botanically known as *Ruellia simplex*, and hereinafter referred to by the name ‘R10-102.’

‘R10-102’ is a tetraploid individual which originated from a manual hybridization conducted in September 2010 in Gainesville, Fla. between UF breeding lines RU36 and 26-1. RU36 is a purple-flowering, tetraploid South American accession of *R. simplex*. 26-1 is a pink-flowering tetraploid breeding line, obtained as a vegetative propagule from RU3-26, which is a diploid-tetraploid chimeric individual obtained by treating the apical meristem of a seedling of *R. simplex* ‘Chi Chi’ with three applications (every 12 hours) of a 50 μM oryzalin solution in December 2008.

‘R10-102’ has been reproduced asexually for over one year through vegetative cuttings and has been shown to retain its distinctive characteristics through successive asexual propagations. The first asexual propagation of ‘R10-102’ was done by tip cuttings at the University of Florida Environmental Horticulture Research Greenhouses, Gainesville, Fla. 32611 in April 2011.

‘R10-102’ has not been made publicly available more than one year prior to the filing date of this application.

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**BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

The following are the most outstanding and distinguishing characteristics of ‘R10-102’ when grown under normal horticultural practices in Northwestern, North Central, and Southeastern Florida, USA:

1. Excellent performance in both full sun and partial shade environments.
2. Prolific flowering throughout the flowering season.
3. Large violet flowers.
4. No fruit production.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

The accompanying photographs illustrate the form and foliage of the new *Ruellia* variety. The colors shown are as true as can be reasonably obtained by conventional photographic procedures.

FIG. 1. Shows a plot of three plants of ‘R10-102’ taken on Aug. 29, 2011. The photograph was taken of 21-week-old plants grown in ground beds with drip irrigation at the Plant Science Research and Education Unit (PSREU) in Citra, Fla. (North Central Florida, 29.4° N., 82.2° W., AHS heat zone 10).

FIG. 2. Shows a close-up view of flowers of ‘R10-102’ on an 8-week-old greenhouse plant, taken on May 8, 2012.

**DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION**

The following detailed description sets forth the distinctive characteristics of ‘R10-102.’ The detailed description was taken on May 8, 2012, 8 weeks after vegetative propagation from greenhouse-grown stock plants. Measurements are the mean values from 3 individual clones propagated on Mar. 12, 2012 and greenhouse-grown in 6" Azalea pots using Fafard



2P mix (Concord Fafard Inc., Agawam, Mass.; 60% Canadian peat moss, 40% perlite) and fertigation at 150 ppm N.

Color references are to The R.H.S. Colour Chart of The Royal Horticultural Society of London (R.H.S.), 2001 Edition.

### Phenotypic Description of *Ruellia simplex* (Variety 'R10-102')

#### Classification:

*Family*.—Acanthaceae.

*Botanical*.—*Ruellia simplex* hybrid.

*Common name*.—*Ruellia*, Mexican Petunia.

*Variety name*.—'R10-102'.

*Plant description*.—Form: Erect. Habit: Clumping. Height (from top of soil): 71.6 cm. Width (horizontal plant diameter): 54.6 cm.

#### Propagation:

*Type cuttings*.—Vegetative meristems having at least 2 nodes.

*Time to initiate roots*.—4 to 6 days.

*Time to produce a rooted cutting*.—7 to 10 days.

*Root habit*.—Adventitious (fibrous). Root description: Callus forms in 3 to 4 days; roots initiate in 5 to 8 days and become a highly branched cutting in 14 to 21 days.

#### Branches:

*Quantity per plant*.—5 to 7 per plant (with no pinching).

*Branch color*.—RHS 143A (Green).

*Texture*.—Smooth.

*Pubescence*.—Slightly tomentose, especially at nodes.

*Stem description*.—Round to square-shaped stem, 4.8 cm in diameter at the soil line.

*Branch diameter*.—2.6 cm at the base of a 32-cm long branch.

*Branch length*.—32.0 cm.

*Internode length*.—9.6 cm.

*Anthocyanin*.—RHS 183B (Grey/Purple).

#### Leaves:

*Quantity of leaves per branch*.—8 to 10.

*Arrangement*.—Decussate (opposite pairs).

*Fragrance*.—N/A.

*Shape*.—Lanceolate to elliptic.

*Length*.—22.6 cm.

*Width*.—3.7 cm.

*Apex*.—Narrowly Acute.

*Base*.—Attenuate.

*Margin*.—Entire.

*Leaf texture (both surfaces)*.—Slightly coriaceous.

*Pubescence color (both surfaces)*.—N/A.

*Venation color*.—Upper surface: RHS 139A (Green).

Lower surface: RHS 137C (Green).

*Venation pattern*.—Pinnate.

*Color, mature and immature leaf*.—Upper surface: RHS 139A (Green). Lower surface: RHS 137C (Green).

*Petiole length*.—1.8 cm to 2.0 cm.

*Petiole diameter*.—0.4 cm.

*Petiole color*.—RHS 143A (Green).

#### Flowers and seeds:

*Flower (if present)*.—Arrangement: Axillary in solitary or several-flowered cyme. Aspect: Actinomorphic corolla with 5 rounded petals; funnel form. Flowering habit (length of flowering season): May to October (N. FL). Number of inflorescences per plant: 6-10

cymes with 40-65 flowers+buds total Fragrance: Very mild and slightly sweet. Lastingness of individual bloom: 1 day. Rate of opening: Daily. Flower Bud: Shape: Elliptic. Length: 2.0 cm. Diameter: 1.2 cm. Color: RHS 143A (Green). Texture: Glandular with trichomes. Corolla: Arrangement: Actinomorphic salverform (funnel form) Length: 6.5 to 7.5 cm Diameter: 5.4 to 6.7 cm Color: Upper surface: RHS 87A (Violet) Lower surface: RHS 87A (Violet) Corolla tube: RHS 86B (Darker Violet) Banner: Not present Margin: Texture (both surfaces): Undulated Color: Upper surface: RHS 87A (Violet) Lower surface: RHS 87A (Violet) Keel: Not present Calyx: Number of sepals per flower: 5 Length: 2.0 cm Diameter: 1.5 cm Apex: Narrowly Acute Base: Fused Texture (both surfaces): Smooth to glandular (see below) Pubescence (present or absent): Present (Glandular trichomes) Sepal color: Upper surface: RHS 143A (Green) Lower surface: RHS 143A (Green) Pedicels: Angle: 15-25° Length: 0.8 cm Diameter: 0.7 cm Texture: Smooth to glandular Color: RHS 143A (Green). Reproductive organs: Stamens: Present. Number: 4 anthers with stamens fused at base to corolla. Filament: 4 (fused). Color: RHS 155D (White). Length: 2 at 2.0 cm, and 2 at 1.3 cm. Diameter: 0.2 cm. Anther color: N/A. Pollen amount: Moderate; 9% stainable, 4% appears to be 2n. Pollen color: RHS 155D (White). Pistils: Number/flower: 1. Pistil length: 3.2 cm. Stigma: Present. Color: RHS 155D (White). Shape: Bilabial and slightly recurved. Length: 0.2 cm. Diameter: 0.2 cm. Style: Color: RHS 155D (White). Length: 3 cm. Diameter: 0.2 cm. Ovary: Hypogenous. Shape: Elliptic. Color: RHS 143A (Green).

Fruit/seed set: None observed.

Disease and insect resistance: Disease and insect resistance is typical of the species.

#### Comparison with Parental Lines and Known Variety

Compared to the female parent RU36, 'R10-102' has a more compact and full growth habit, less rounded leaves, and no fruiting. Compared to the male parent 26-1, 'R10-102' is taller, with more elliptical leaves, violet flowers rather than pink flowers, and no fruiting.

Compared to *Ruellia simplex* 'Purple Showers' in North, Central, and Southeastern FL, 'R10-102' has an average height of 96 cm and width of 100 cm, as compared to 101 cm and 92 cm. The average landscape performance rating values (evaluated monthly from weeks 0 to 24 at three sites, based on a total of 27 plants) were 4.3 and 3.4 for 'R10-102' and 'Purple Showers,' respectively, where landscape performance was rated on a scale from 1-5, with 1 being very poor quality, not acceptable, severe leaf necrosis or chlorosis, and poor form; 2 being poor quality, not acceptable, large areas of necrosis or chlorosis, and poor form; 3 being acceptable quality, and somewhat desirable form and color; 4 being very good quality, very acceptable, and desirable color and form; and 5 being excellent quality, perfect condition, and premium color and form.

What is claimed is:

1. A new and distinct variety of *Ruellia* plant as shown and described herein.

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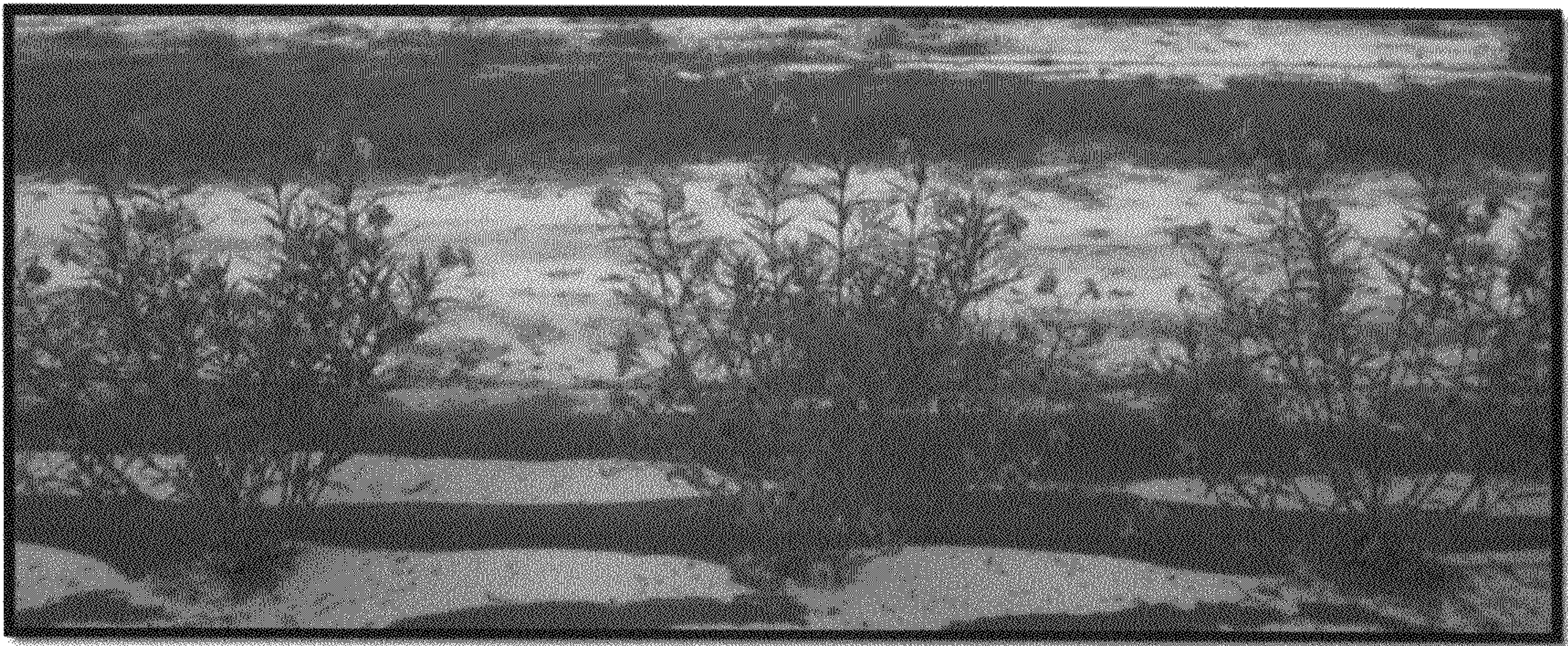


FIG. 1





FIG. 2