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

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(54) **PHALAEOPSIS ORCHID PLANT NAMED**
'PALAZZIO'

(50) Latin Name: *Phalaenopsis* hybrid
Varietal Denomination: **Palazzio**

(71) Applicant: **Floricultura**, Heemskerk (NL)

(72) Inventor: **René Schoone**, Assendelft (NL)

(73) Assignee: **Floricultura**, Heemskerk (NL)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 112 days.

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(65) **Prior Publication Data**

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Related U.S. Application Data

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(30) **Foreign Application Priority Data**

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A01H 5/00 (2006.01)
A01H 5/02 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC *A01H 5/02* (2013.01)
USPC **Plt./311**

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
USPC Plt./311
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

PP13,092 P2 * 10/2002 Glancy Plt./311
PP14,330 P2 * 12/2003 Plate Plt./311
PP23,787 P3 * 7/2013 Schoone Plt./311

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct *Phalaenopsis* plant named 'Palazzio' particularly characterized by flowers which are purple/violet, with a purple labellum with some yellow and white; 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: 'Palazzio'.

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 'Palazzio'.

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 sepals and three petals; the lateral ones being alike. The lowermost petal, called the labellum, is three-lobed and is

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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.

5 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.

10 The new *Phalaenopsis* 'Palazzio' is a product of a controlled breeding program conducted by the inventors, 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
15 tissue culture, rapid growth, and a plant dimension suitable for packaging and shipping to the market.

The new *Phalaenopsis* 'Palazzio' originated from a cross made by the inventor in 1999 in Strengweg, Heemskerk, The Netherlands. The female or seed parent is the *Phalaenopsis* cultivar designated 'Salu Red', unpatented. The male or pollen parent is the *Phalaenopsis* cultivar designated 'Winning Little Leopard', unpatented. The new *Phalaenopsis* 'Palazzio' was discovered and selected by the inventor as a single flowering plant within the progeny of the stated cross in
20 a controlled environment in 2006 in Strengweg, Heemskerk, The Netherlands.

25 Asexual reproduction of the new *Phalaenopsis* cultivar by tissue culture was first performed in July, 2007 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 asexually reproduces true-to-type.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

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

1. flowers which are purple/violet, with a purple labellum with some yellow and white;
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 'Palazzio', the female parent 'Salu Red' has crimson colored flowers, the male parent 'Winning Little Leopard' has light purple colored flowers with small spots, whereas the flowers of 'Palazzio' are purple/violet with some purple spots.

Presently, the commercial cultivar to which 'Palazzio' can be meaningfully compared is 'Lions Dive' (U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/986,290). The color of the flowers of 'Lions Dive' is purple/violet, whereas the color of the flowers of 'Palazzio' is purple. 'Palazzio' also has more white on the lateral sepals with purple/violet spots, and the spots on the lateral sepals of 'Lions Dive' are red/purple. The two varieties also differ in the shape of the labellum.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying photographs illustrate the overall appearance of the new *Phalaenopsis* 'Palazzio' 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 'Palazzio'.

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

FIG. 2 shows a close-up view of a typical flower of 'Palazzio'.

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

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The new *Phalaenopsis* cultivar 'Palazzio' 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 'Palazzio' 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 'Palazzio' is 27° C. during the day and at night. Then, during the flowering phase of 'Palazzio', the ideal growing temperature is 20-22° C. during the day and 18° C. at night. Light levels for growing 'Palazzio' 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 'Palazzio' 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 general 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 'Palazzio' plants described is 12 months after potting.

Classification:

Botanical.—*Phalaenopsis* hybrid.

Parentage:

Female or seed parent.—*Phalaenopsis* cultivar designated 'Salu Red', unpatented.

Male or pollen parent.—*Phalaenopsis* cultivar designated 'Winning Little Leopard', unpatented.

Propagation:

Type.—Tissue culture.

Rooting habit and description.—Fleshy; approximately 4 mm-7 mm wide and green (RHS 144A and RHS 148C) in color; freely branching. It takes 12 weeks for plants growing in tissue culture to initiate roots.

Plant:

Size at maturity.—Height (from bottom of top to highest flower): about 54 to 56 cm. Spread: about 30 to 45 cm.

Growth habit.—Standard; green (RHS N137A) leaves and 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 racemes with flowers appear.

Foliage:

Quantity per plant.—About 6 to 8 leaves are produced before flowering.

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

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

Texture (both surfaces).—Smooth and leathery.

Leaf base.—Acute.

Margin.—Entire.

Pubescence.—None.

Mature leaf length.—About 15 to 22 cm.

Mature leaf width.—About 7 to 9 cm.

Mature leaf thickness.—About 1.5 mm.

Mature leaf color (upper surface).—Green (RHS 137A).

Mature leaf color (under surface).—Green (RHS 137B).

Venation.—Pattern: parallel. Color of midvein: upper surface RHS N137A, under surface RHS 137B.

Raceme:

Quantity per plant.—About 1 to 3.

Number of flowers per raceme.—About 10 to 25.

Length.—About 35 to 50 cm.

Diameter.—About 4 mm.

Strength.—Strong.

Aspect.—Upright.

Texture.—Glabrous and smooth.

Color.—Green (RHS 143C) with some darker green (RHS 137A).

Internode.—Length: about 24 mm to 30 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 17 mm to 22 mm. Diameter (at midpoint): about 14 mm to 17 mm. Shape: egg-shaped. Color: yellow/green (RHS 145B) with a purple haze (RHS 77A).

Flowering time.—For an untreated plant (flowering 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. 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 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: Typical shape of *Phalaenopsis* orchid; see FIG. 2. Size (of single bloom): Height: about 53 mm. Diameter: about 55 mm. Depth of tube: about 10 mm.

Petals.—Quantity and arrangement: three petals and three sepals that are trimerous, overlapping and arranged in 2 whorls. Petals are more pronounced than sepals. Arrangement: Inner whorl comprises 3 petals: 2 lateral petals and labellum. 2 lateral petals: Overall shape: broadly ovate and weakly cupped, little bit rhombic. Apex: oval. Margin: entire and weakly undulate. Base: broadly ovate. Length: about 25 mm. Width: about 28 mm. Texture: Upper surface: smooth and satiny. Under surface: smooth and satiny. Color (when fully opened): upper surface is purple (RHS N78B). Under surface is purple (RHS N78C). At the tip a white mark on the vein (RHS NN155B). 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 filiform appendages at the apex. 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. Length: about 17 mm. Width (not flattened): about 15 mm. Texture: Upper & under surface: smooth and satiny. Color (when fully opened): Upper surface: At the base of the mid lobe a small yellow mark (RHS 6B). The

wide part is red/purple (RHS 71A). The small part is purple (RHS N78A). Lateral lobes are white (RHS NN155C) with at the base a yellow mark (RHS 9B) and red/purple spots and stripes (RHS 71A). Main color is red/purple (RHS 71A). Under surface: Mid lobe is purple/violet (RHS N80A) with a white vein (RHS NN155C). Lateral lobes are white (RHS 155C) with wide purple edges (RHS N78A). Cirrhi: short. Color: purple (RHS N78A) with a white tip (RHS NN155C). Pestle (Callosities): Length: about 4 mm. Width: about 4 mm. Color: white with yellow/orange on the top (RHS 14B) with red/purple stripes/spots (RHS 71A).

Sepals.—Arrangement: Outer whorl comprises 3 sepals. Overall shape: elliptical and weakly cupped. Margin: entire and weakly undulate. Length: about 30 mm. Width: about 20 mm. Apex: oval. Texture: Upper & under surface: smooth and satiny. Color (when fully opened): Dorsal, upper surface: main color is purple (RHS 78B) with thin white edges (RHS NN155C). Under surface is purple/violet (RHS N80B) with white edges and a white mark at the tip (RHS N155B). Lateral, upper surface: main color is purple (RHS N78B). At the base a white mark (RHS NN155C) with purple/violet stripes/spots (RHS N81A) and little white edges. Under surface is purple/violet (RHS N80B) with a white vein (RHS N155B).

Pedicel.—Length: about 30 mm. Diameter: about 2 mm. Texture: glabrous and smooth. Color: At the base of the raceme purple (RHS 79A). Middle is green (RHS 137D) and base of the flower white (RHS N155D).

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 15 mm. Diameter: about 5 mm. Color: purple (RHS N78B).

Pollinia.—Quantity: Two. Diameter: about 1 mm. Color: yellow/orange (RHS 23A).

Ovary.—Length: about 4 mm. Diameter: about 5 mm. Color: purple (RHS 75A).

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 'Palazzio', as illustrated and described herein.

* * * * *

FIG. 1

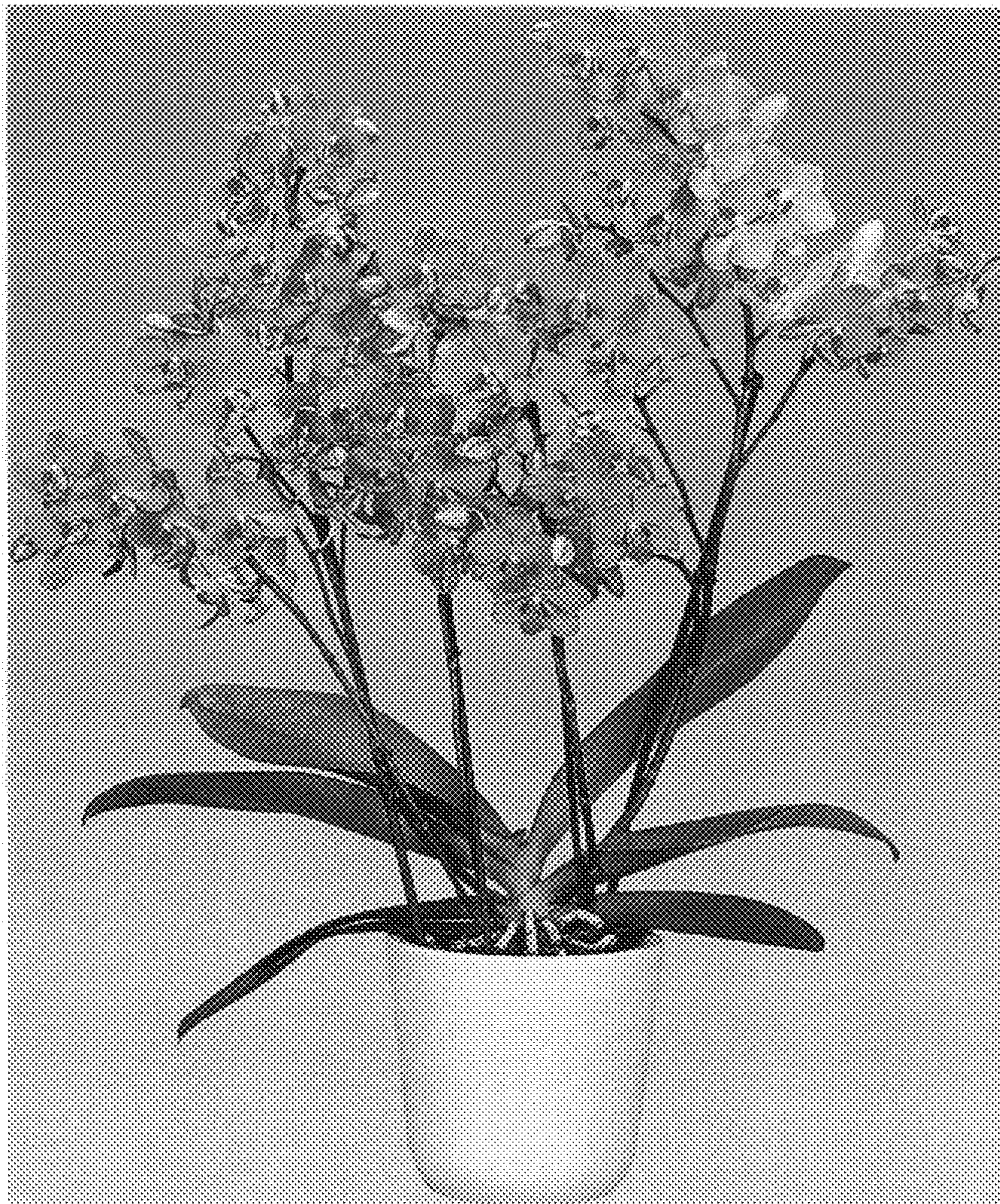


FIG. 2

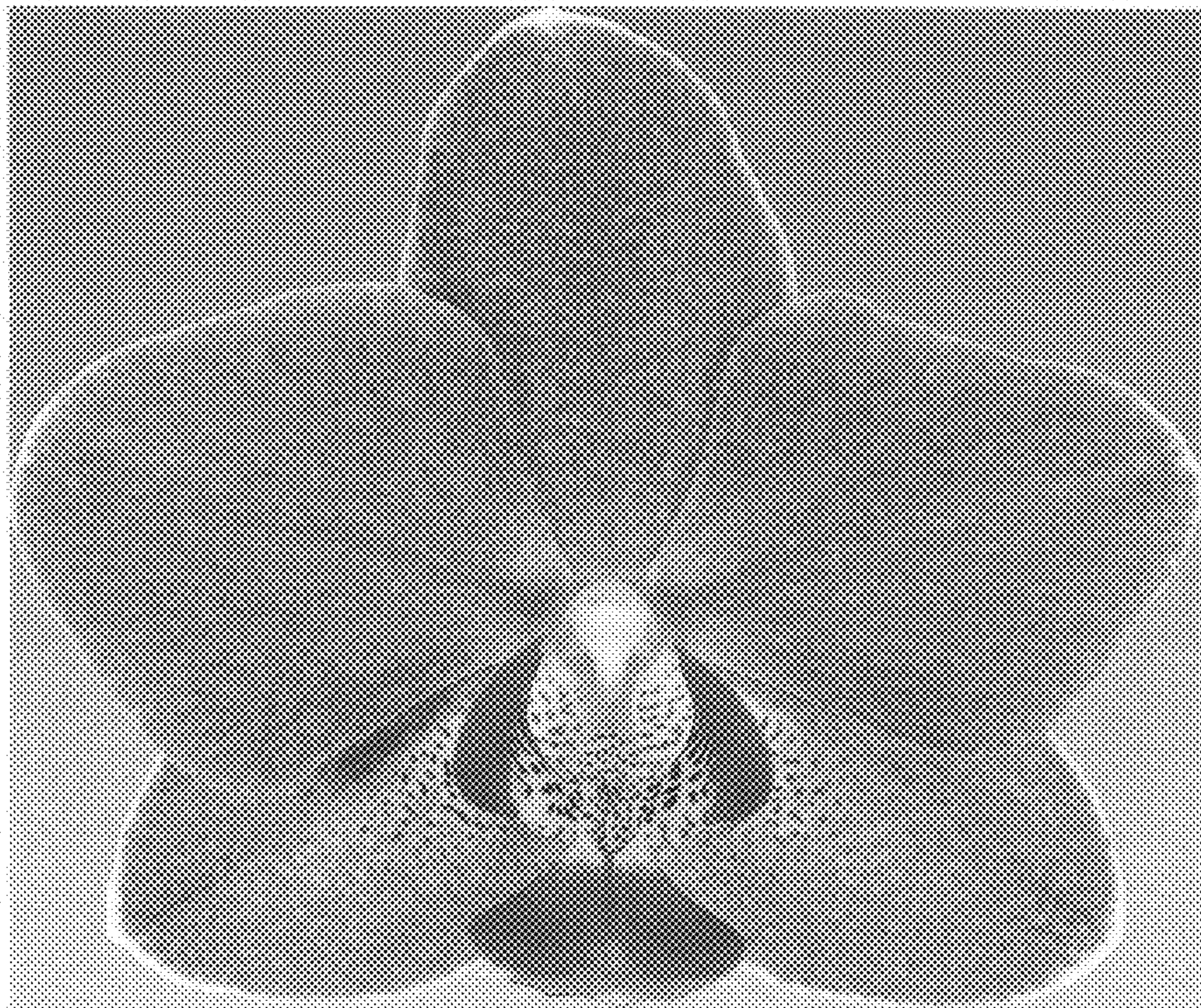


FIG. 3

