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Pavlich

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(54) **BEGONIA PLANT NAMED ‘AURORA’**

(50) Latin Name: *Begonia rex-cultorum*
Varietal Denomination: **Aurora**

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patent is extended or adjusted under 35
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(51) **Int. Cl.**
A01H 5/12 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
USPC **Plt./343**

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

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See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

PUBLICATIONS

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct form of *Begonia* plant characterized by
broad leaves colored silver with a dark star-shape at the leaf
base that is surrounded by a purple blush, maroon leaf backs,
a bushy habit, tolerant of cool temperatures to 33° F., and
excellent vigor.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Botanical denomination: *Begonia rex-cultorum*.
Variety designation: ‘Aurora’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of *Begonia*, of the family Begoniaceae, and given the cultivar
name ‘Aurora’. The new cultivar originated from a cross
between *Begonia* ‘Shaun Henthorne’, an unpatented Rex type
as the seed parent and an unnamed, unpatented Angelwing
type, as the pollen parent. This selection is uniquely charac-
terized by:

1. iridescent blue silver angelwing-shaped leaves that dis-
play rose purple in the leaf center and as a border on the
margin,
2. maroon and green leaf backs,
3. a bushy habit,
4. tolerant of cool temperatures to 33° F., and
5. excellent vigor.

Compared to *Begonia* ‘Shaun Henthorne’, an unpatented
plant and the seed parent, the new cultivar has leaves that
ovate with oblique and cordate base rather than broadly ovate
with an oblique swirling base. In addition the foliage color of
the new cultivar is much more muted and silver and the plant
survives better in the cold.

Compared to the unnamed *Begonia* Angelwing pollen par-
ent, the new cultivar has leaves that are colored silver with
rose purple markings rather than green with a few silver spots.
The Angelwing was an upright, cane-type while the new
cultivar has a bushy habit with fibrous roots.

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Compared to *Begonia* ‘Roseburg’, an unpatented plant, the
new cultivar has smaller leaves, more overlapping leaf bases,
more silver leaf color, and a more basal crown habit.

The new variety has been reproduced only by asexual
propagation (cuttings and tissue culture). Each of the progeny
exhibits identical characteristics to the original plant. Asexual
propagation by micropropagation using the meristem as done
in Canby, Oreg., shows that the foregoing characteristics and
distinctions come true to form and are established and trans-
mitted through succeeding propagations. The present inven-
tion has not been evaluated under all possible environmental
conditions. The phenotype may vary with variations in envi-
ronment without a change in the genotype of the plant.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

FIG. 1 shows the foliage and habit of *Begonia* ‘Aurora’ in
August in Canby, Oreg.

DETAILED PLANT DESCRIPTION

The following is a detailed description of the new *Begonia*
cultivar based on observations of ten-month-old specimens
grown in one gallon containers in a cool greenhouse in early
March in Canby, Oreg. Canby is Zone 8 on the USDA Har-
diness map. Temperatures range from a high of 95° F. in
August to 32° F. in January. Normal rainfall in Canby is 42.8
inches per year. The color descriptions are all based on The
Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 5th edition, 2007.

Plant:

Type.—Herbaceous perennial, fibrous *Begonia*.

Form.—Clumping, caulescent.

Cold hardiness.—USDA Zone 10a.

Size.—grows to 28 cm tall and 50 cm wide.

Vigor.—Excellent.

Stem:

Type.—Upright.

Size.—Grows to 7 cm long and 18 mm wide.

Internodes.—From 3 mm to 2.5 cm long.

Surface.—Glabrous.

Color.—Greyed Purple 187A on young stems to Brown N200A on older stems.

Leaf:

Type.—Simple.

Arrangement.—Alternate, often congested on very short internodes.

Shape.—Ovate.

Margins.—Slightly undulate, coarsely serrate.

Apex.—Acuminate.

Base.—Oblique, overlapping.

Venation.—Palmate, color topside between Greyed Green 197A and Yellow Green 152A, bottom side Greyed Purple 187A.

Blade size.—Grows to 10 cm wide and 17.5 cm long.

Surface texture.—Sparsely pubescent on top and bottom.

Stipules.—Deciduous, ovate-lanceolate, 17 mm long and 10 mm wide, apex acuminate and cuspidate, entire, both sides glabrous and Greyed Red 181A.

Petiole description.—Grows to 25 cm long and 6 mm wide, succulent, glabrous, between Greyed Green 197A and Yellow Green 152A.

Leaf color.—Top side closest to Greyed Green 189B where silver, tinted Purple N79B in the leaf center and on the outside 1 cm of the leaf; bottom side Greyed Purple 187A along the veins and leaf margin, Green 138B interveinally.

Inflorescence:

Type.—Axillary, bisexual, cymose.

Number of flowers per cyme.—3 to 4.

Peduncle description.—Grows about 5 cm long and 2.5 mm wide, succulent, glabrous, between Greyed

Green 197A and Yellow Green 152A; with 2 opposite, dehiscent petiolate leaf-bracts below each cyme, which grow to 7 mm wide and 14 mm long, margins entire, tip apiculate, both sides glabrous and Greyed Red 181D.

Pedicel description.—Grow to 15 mm long, 1 mm wide, glabrous, Yellow Green 146D.

Bloom period.—Early spring in Canby, Oreg.

Flower bud:

Size.—Staminate flowers 12 mm long and 10 mm wide prior to opening; pistillate flowers are 15 mm deep and 15 mm wide prior to opening.

Description.—Ovoid, sparsely pubescent.

Color.—Greyed Red 151C on tepal area, ovary Greyed Red 151C darkening to Greyed Purple 183C.

Flower:

Type.—Monoecious, bilaterally symmetrical.

Pistillate flower.—None seen.

Staminate flower.—7 mm deep and 22 mm wide, 4 tepals, 2 larger outer tepals 15 mm long and 15 mm wide, cupped, broadly elliptical, margin entire, tip obtuse, base truncate, inside Red Purple 63D in center to 65D on sides and outside 58D in center and 65D on sides; inner tepals grow to 12 mm long and 8 mm wide, oblong, entire, tip obtuse, base attenuate, both sides Red Purple 65D with a band of pink in center, 63D outside and 65D inside; stamen many in a globular head 8 mm in diameter, filament 2 mm long, anthers 1.5 mm long and Yellow 7A, no pollen, male sterile.

Fragrance.—None.

Lastingness.—A cyme blooms for about 4 weeks on the plant.

Fruit and seed: None, sterile.

Diseases and pests: The new cultivar is typical to the genus. No known resistances to pests or diseases. No problems have been found in Canby, Oreg.

I claim:

1. A new and distinct form of *Begonia* plant as hereby illustrated and described.

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