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

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(54) ***PHALAENOPSIS* ORCHID PLANT NAMED 'MAMAMIA'**

(50) Latin Name: ***Phalaenopsis hybrida***
Varietal Denomination: **Mamamia**

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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 192 days.

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(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 'Mamamia' particularly characterized by flowers which are purple/violet with a small white edge; 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

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

Variety denomination: 'Mamamia'.

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 'Mamamia'.

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 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* 'Mamamia' 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* 'Mamamia' 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 'Super Stupid', unpatented. The male or pollen parent is the *Phalaenopsis* cultivar designated 'Zuma Pixie', unpatented. The new *Phalaenopsis* 'Mamamia' was discovered and selected by the inventor as a single flowering plant within the progeny of the stated cross in a controlled environment in 2007 in Strengweg, Heemskerk, The Netherlands.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Phalaenopsis* cultivar by tissue culture was first performed in November, 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 'Mamamia', which in combination distinguish this *Phalaenopsis* as a new and distinct cultivar:

1. flowers which are purple/violet with a small white edge;
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 'Mamamia', the female parent 'Super Stupid' has purple/red flowers and they are about 9 cm high, the male parent 'Zuma Pixie' has pink colored flowers and they are about 5 cm high, whereas the flowers of 'Mamamia' are purple/violet with a small white edge and are about 4.5 cm high.

Presently, the commercial cultivar to which 'Mamamia' can be meaningfully compared is 'Romance' (U.S. Plant patent application Ser. No. 13/573,582). The flowers of 'Mamamia' are purple/violet with small white edges and some white at the sepals. The flowers of 'Romance' are purple with some white on the sepals. The flowers of 'Mamamia' are a bit larger than the flowers of 'Romance'.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

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

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

FIG. **2** shows a close-up view of the typical flower of 'Mamamia'.

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

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

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

Classification:

Botanical.—Phalaenopsis hybrida.

Parentage:

Female or seed parent.—Phalaenopsis cultivar designated 'Super Stupid', unpatented.

Male or pollen parent.—Phalaenopsis cultivar designated 'Zuma Pixie', unpatented.

Propagation:

Type.—Tissue culture.

Rooting habit and description.—Fleshy; approximately 3 mm-6 mm wide and green in color (RHS 143A); freely branching. It takes 12 weeks for plants growing in tissue culture to initiate roots.

Plant:

Size at maturity.—Height (from bottom of plant to highest flower): about 45 cm. Spread: about 45 cm.

Growth habit.—Small; dark-green leaves (RHS 137C) 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 2-5 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, the tip is blunt and asymmetric.

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

Pubescence.—None.

Mature leaf length.—About 14 to 22 cm.

Mature leaf width.—About 63 to 80 mm.

Mature leaf thickness.—About 2 mm.

Mature leaf color.—Upper side: green (RHS 137C). Under side: green (RHS 143C).

Leaf base.—Acute.

Margin.—Entire.

Venation.—Pattern: parallel. Color of midvein: upper side: green (RHS 137C). Under side: green (RHS 144C).

Inflorescence description:

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

Raceme:

Quantity per plant.—About 2 to 5.

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

Length.—About 35 to 45 cm.

Peduncle.—Diameter: about 3 to 5 mm. Strength: strong. Aspect: upright. Texture: glabrous and smooth. Color: green (RHS 143C) with some darker green (RHS 137A).

Buds.—Height (from base to tip): about 16 mm. Diameter (at midpoint): about 15 mm. Shape: egg-shaped. Color: green (RHS 142D) and purple (RHS 77B).

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.), 2-5 racemes appear with flower buds and flowers. 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: Height: about 40 mm to 50 mm. Diameter: about 45 mm to 52 mm. Quantity and arrangement: three petals and three sepals that are trimerous, overlapping and arranged in 2 whorls. Petals are more pronounced than sepals.

Petals.—Arrangement: Inner whorl comprises 3 petals: 2 lateral petals and a labellum. 2 lateral petals: Overall shape: broadly ovate, little triangular and weakly cupped. Apex: oval/round, little pointy. Margin: entire and weakly undulate. Base: broadly ovate. Length: about 22 mm. Width: about 22 mm. Texture: Upper surface: smooth and satiny. Under surface: smooth and satiny. Color (when fully opened): upper side: main color is purple/violet (RHS N80A) with white edges (RHS NN155C) which are thin at the base and thicker at the point. Under side: main color is purple/violet (RHS N80B and RHS N80A) with white edges (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 stubs 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. Apex: oval. Length: about 18 mm. Width (not flattened): about 15 mm. Depth of tube created by lateral lobes of labellum: about 6 mm. Texture: Upper and under surface: smooth and satiny. Color (when fully opened): Midlobe: upper surface: at the base little bit white (RHS NN155C), than purple (RHS N79B) and at the end purple/violet (RHS N80A). Front edge, close to the cirrhi) very thin white (RHS NN155C). Under surface: main color is purple/violet (RHS N81A). Close to the edges purple (RHS N79B). Front edge, close to the cirrhi) very thin white (RHS NN155C). Lateral lobes: upper surface: main color is purple (RHS N79B), at the base yellow (RHS 9A) with some white (RHS NN155B). Under surface: at the base white (RHS NN155B) which runs into purple (RHS N79B). At this transition the color is grey/purple (RHS N187C). Cirrhi: small (about 0.5 mm). Color: white (RHS NN155C). Pestle (Callosities): Length: about 4 mm. Width (not flattened): about 3 mm. Color: main color is white (RHS NN155B), on top some yellow (RHS 9A). Spots are red/purple (RHS 59B).

Sepals.—Arrangement: Outer whorl comprises 3 sepals, one dorsal and two lateral sepals. Overall shape: elliptical and weakly cupped. Margin: entire and weakly undulate. Length: about 26 mm. Width: about 17 mm. Apex: oval/round. Texture: Upper and under surface: smooth and satiny. Color (when fully opened): upper surface: main color is purple/violet (RHS N80A) with small white edge (RHS NN155C). At the base lateral sepals there is some white (RHS NN155B). Under surface: edges are white (RHS NN155C) which runs into purple/violet (RHS N80B) with in the center violet (RHS 85D).

Pedicel.—Length: about 24 mm. Diameter: about 3 mm. Texture: glabrous and smooth. Color: from purple (RHS N77B) into red/purple (RHS 73D) with some RHS 157C.

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 9 mm. Diameter: about 4 mm. Color: purple/violet (RHS N80A).

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

Ovary.—Length: about 3 mm. Diameter: about 4 mm. Color: white (RHS N155B).

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 'Mamamia', as illustrated and described herein.

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FIG. 1

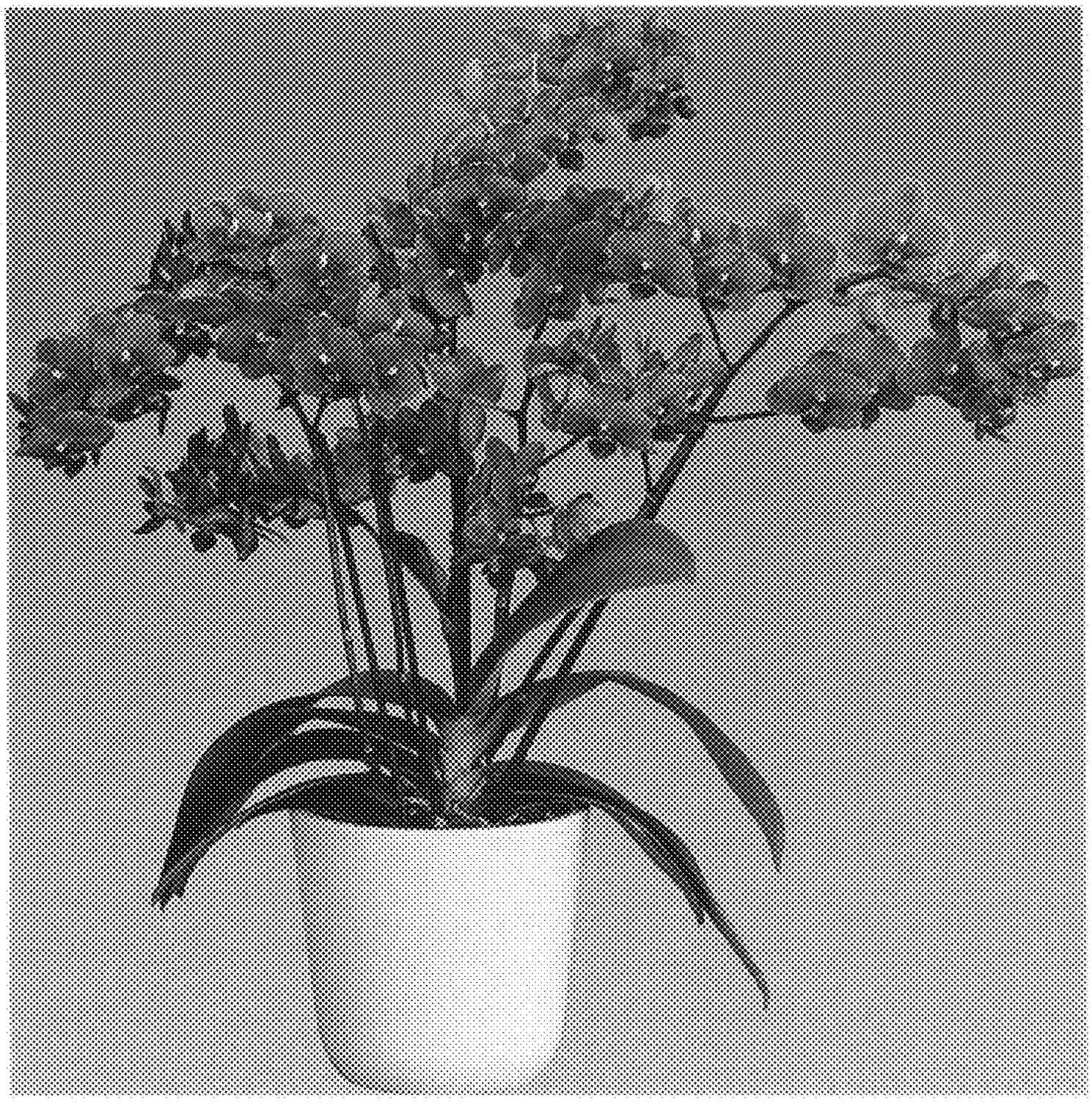

FIG. 2

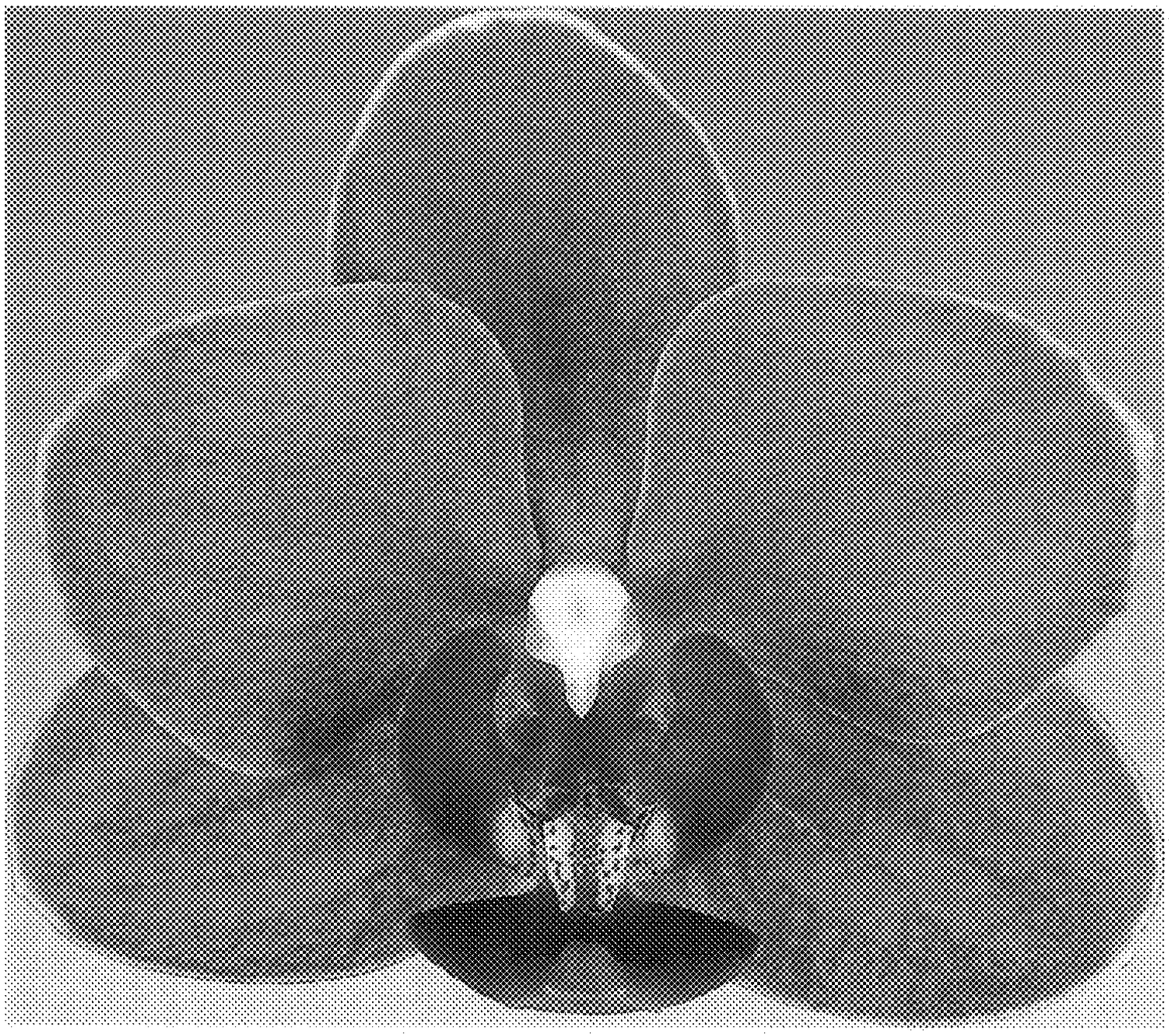

FIG. 3