

US00PP26172P3

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

(10) **Patent No.:** **US PP26,172 P3**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Dec. 1, 2015**

(54) **BLUEBERRY PLANT, EB 8-21**

(50) Latin Name: *Vaccinium* Hybrid
Varietal Denomination: **EB 8-21**

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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 89 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **13/998,665**

(22) Filed: **Nov. 21, 2013**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**
US 2014/0150141 P1 May 29, 2014

(30) **Foreign Application Priority Data**
Nov. 28, 2012 (AU) 2012/257

(51) **Int. Cl.**
A01H 5/00 (2006.01)
A01H 5/08 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
USPC **Plt./157**
CPC *A01H 5/08* (2013.01)
(58) **Field of Classification Search**
USPC **Plt./157**
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct variety of blueberry plant, which is
denominated varietally as ‘EB 8-21’ and which produces fruit
which are mature for harvesting and shipment early in the
season, and which is very large in size and which further
displays a growth pattern which is upright when grown under
the ecological conditions prevailing in Yanchep Springs,
Western Australia.

2 Drawing Sheets

1

Latin name: ‘*Vaccinium* Hybrid’.
Varietal denomination: ‘EB 8-21’.

RELATED APPLICATION DATA

The present application claims priority to Australian Plan
Breeder's Rights Application Serial No. 2012/257 and which
was filed on Nov. 28, 2012.

BACKGROUND OF THE NEW VARIETY

The present invention relates to a new, novel, and distinct
variety of blueberry plant ‘*Vaccinium* Hybrid,’ and which has
been denominated varietally, as ‘EB 8-21’, hereinafter.

**ORIGIN AND ASEXUAL REPRODUCTION OF
THE NEW VARIETY**

The present variety of blueberry plant resulted from an
ongoing development program of plant breeding. The pur-
pose of this program is to improve the commercial quality of
various plant varieties by creating and releasing promising
selections of plants including blueberries. To this end, I have
made both controlled and hybrid cross-pollinations each year
in order to produce experimental plant populations from
which improved progenies are evaluated and selected.

The blueberry plant ‘EB 8-21’ was originated by me and
selected from a population of new plants growing on my farm,
and which is located near Yanchep Springs, Western Austra-

2

lia. The new plant was derived from a controlled pollination,
which was conducted using the seed parent ‘SB-1’, and the
pollen parent ‘03-6’ during the 2005 growing season, on my
farm which is located in Yanchep Springs, Yanchep Western
Australia. The seed parent ‘SB-1’, and the pollen parent ‘03-
6’ are both unpatented. The seed parent is principally charac-
terized as to novelty by a semi-spreading growth habit; an
early season of flowering; and which further produces fruit
having a medium size for the species. On the other hand, the
pollen parent is characterized by a spreading growth habit; an
early season of flowering; and which further produces large
fruit. Seed derived from the seed parent (‘SB-1’) [unpat-
ented], produced approximately 500 plants. The first fruit
from this first cross-pollination was studied during the 2007
growing season.

A subsequent assessment took place in 2008, and the new
variety ‘EB 8-21’ showed particularly desirable character
traits. Further commercial testing including vegetative propa-
gation from cuttings taken from ‘EB 8-21’ occurred during
the 2009 through 2012 growing seasons. The resulting prog-
eny appeared true to the original plant. Subsequent evalua-
tions has led the inventor to conclude that the new variety is
novel and distinct. The present variety is characterized as to
novelty by producing extra large sized fruit, and which further
has a small, dry picking scar, very good fruit flavor, and an
early flowering and fruit production dates.

The closest known variety to the new variety ‘EB 8-21’ is
the “Sharpeblue” blueberry plant (unpatented), and which
produces fruit which are mature for harvesting and shipment

early to the middle of the season, and which further has a fruit size which is average as compared to other blueberry plants. Still further, the “Sharpeblue” blueberry plant has an intermediate growth habit and a fruit shape which is considered to be oblate. The new plant ‘EB 8-21’, in contrast, has a date of fruit harvesting which is considered to be very early in the season, and which additionally produces very large fruit, and has an upright growth habit which is in contrast to the closest known variety.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

The accompanying drawings, which are provided are color photographs of the new blueberry plant.

FIG. 1 depicts several whole, mature fruit of the new and novel variety, sufficiently matured for harvesting and shipment. FIG. 1 further depicts a twig bearing typical leaves and showing the dorsal and ventral coloration thereof, and the general growth habit of the new variety.

FIG. 2 depicts a twig bearing typical leaves and which shows the dorsal and ventral coloration thereof.

The colors in these photographs are as nearly true as is reasonably possible in a color representation of this type. Due to chemical development, processing and printing, the leaves and fruit depicted in these photographs may or may not be accurate when compared to the actual specimen. For this reason, future color references should be made to the common color description as provided hereinafter.

NOT A COMMERCIAL WARRANTY

The following detailed description has been prepared to solely comply with the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §112, and does not constitute a commercial warranty (either express or implied) that the present variety will, in the future, display the botanical, horticultural, or other characteristics as set forth, hereinafter. Therefore, this disclosure may not be relied upon to support any future legal claims including, but not limited to, breach of warranty of merchantability, or fitness for any particular purpose, or non-infringement, which is directed, in whole, or in part, to the present new variety.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Referring more specifically to the botanical details of this new and distinct variety of blueberry plant, the following has been observed during the sixth fruiting season under the ecological conditions prevailing at the farm of the inventor, which is located in Yanchep Springs, Yanchep Western Australia.

PLANT

Plant vigor: Strong to very strong. This is in contrast to the closest known variety, that being the ‘Sharpeblue’ blueberry plant (unpatented) and which is the closest known variety and which has a plant vigor characteristic which is considered only average to strong in comparison to other similar varieties.

Plant growth habit:

Generally.—Considered upright. This is in contrast to the growth habit which is expressed by the closest known variety and which is considered to be average.

Average plant size: About 1.8 meters in height, and about 1.5 meters in width.

Color:

One year old shoots.—Considered yellow-green (RHS 144A). This color is not distinctive of the present variety and is similar to the color as expressed by the closest known variety ‘Sharpeblue’.

Internode length:

One year old shoots.—Considered medium for the species. This characteristic is distinguishable from the same growth characteristic as expressed by the closest known variety and which is medium to long.

LEAF

Leaf length: Considered average for the species, about 57 mm. This is in contrast to the closest known variety which has a leaf length which is considered average to long.

Leaf width: Considered average, about 32 mm. This is in contrast to the growth characteristic as expressed by the closest known variety where the leaf width is considered average to broad.

Leaf length/width ratio: Considered average. This is in contrast to the closest known variety where the same characteristic is considered average to large.

Leaf shape:

Generally.—Ovate. This is similar to the same growth characteristic as expressed by the ‘Sharpeblue’ blueberry plant.

Leaf color:

Dorsal surface.—Green (RHS 139A). This is similar to the growth characteristic as expressed by the closest known variety.

Leaf color:

Ventral surface.—Green. (RHS 138A).

Leaf color intensity:

Dorsal surface.—The present variety has a medium to dark green color. This is in contrast to the same growth characteristic as expressed by the closest known variety where the same green coloration is considered light to medium.

Leaf margin:

Generally.—Considered Entire. This is similar to the closest known variety.

FLOWER

Anthocyanin coloration: Considered very weak for the species. This is similar to the same growth characteristic as expressed by the closest known variety.

Inflorescence length: Considered average, about 10 mm. This is similar to the same growth characteristic as expressed by the closest known variety.

Average flower width about 8 mm.

Flower color: White. (RHS N155C).

Flower shape:

Corolla.—Urceolate.

Corolla tube:

Size.—Considered average. This is in contrast to the closest known variety where the size of the corolla tube is considered average to large.

Corolla tube coloration—anthocyanin: Very weak to weak. This is in contrast to the merely weak coloration of the corolla tube as seen in the closest known variety.

Corolla tube ridges: Present. These ridges are also seen in the closest known variety.

Average corolla length: About 8 mm.

FRUIT

Fruit cluster density: Considered dense. This is in contrast to the closest known variety where the same growth characteristic is seen as dense to very dense.

Unripe fruit:

Color intensity.—Considered average for the species yellow-green about (RHS 144B). This is in contrast to the growth characteristic as expressed in the closest known variety where the unripe fruit color is considered light to medium green.

Fruit size:

Generally.—Considered very large for the species, about 21 mm. This is in contrast to the fruit size as expressed by the closest known variety and where the fruit size is considered merely average. The fruit shape when viewed in a longitudinal section is considered oblate. This is similar to the closest known variety.

Sepal position: Considered semi-erect. This is in contrast to the sepal position or attitude characteristics as expressed by the closest known variety, that being, the ‘Sharpeblue’ blueberry plant and where the attitude of the sepals is considered to be merely erect.

Fruit sepal type: Considered incurving. This is in contrast to the same characteristic as expressed in the closest known variety and which is considered to be straight.

Calyx diameter basin: Considered average, about 9 mm. This is in contrast to the same characteristic expressed by the closest known variety and which is considered small to medium.

Calyx basin/depth: Considered average for the species, about 2 mm. This is very similar to the growth characteristic as expressed by the closest known variety.

Fruit:

Bloom intensity.—Considered strong. This is similar to what is seen in the closest known variety.

Skin color: Dark blue (RHS 203D). This color is similar to the color as seen in the closest known variety.

Fruit firmness: Generally speaking the present variety produces firm, to very firm fruit. This is in contrast to the soft to average firmness as typically experienced in the fruit produced by the closest known variety.

Fruit sweetness: Considered medium to high. This is in contrast to the closest known variety where the fruit sweetness is considered merely average.

Fruit acidity:

Generally.—Low to medium. This is in contrast to the closest known variety where fruit acidity is considered merely average.

Fruit flesh color: Yellow-green (RHS 145C).

Seed color: Grey-brown (RHS N199D).

Fruiting portions of the plant: Fruit may be found on one year old and current seasons shoots. This is similar to the same growth characteristics as expressed in the ‘Sharpeblue’ blueberry plant.

Time of vegetative bud burst: Generally speaking, the vegetative bud burst is considered to be very early in the season. This time of bud burst is earlier than that observed in the closest known variety.

Flowering time—one year old shoots: Considered very early in the season, and earlier in time than that as seen in the closest known variety.

Flowering time on current year’s shoots: Considered very early in the season, and earlier in time than that as seen in the closest known variety.

Fruit ripening time on one year old shoots: Considered very early in the season for the species. This is in contrast to the same growth characteristic as expressed by the closest known variety ‘Sharpeblue’ blueberry plant, and where the time of fruit ripening begins early to medium in the season.

Fruit ripening time on current year’s shoots: Considered very early in the season and earlier in time than the same growth characteristic as expressed by the closest known variety ‘Sharpeblue’ blueberry plant.

Resistance to insects and disease: No particular susceptibilities were noted. The present variety has not been tested to expose or detect any susceptibilities or resistances to any known plant and/or fruit diseases.

Although the new variety of blueberry plant possesses the described characteristics when grown under the ecological conditions prevailing near Yanchep Springs, Western Australia, it should be understood that the variations of the usual magnitude and characteristics incident to changes in growing conditions, fertilization, pruning, pest control, frost, climatic variables and horticultural management are to be expected.

Having thus described and illustrated my new variety of blueberry plant, what I claim is new and desire to secure by Plant Letters Patent is:

1. A distinct variety of blueberry plant, substantially as illustrated and described and which is characterized principally as to novelty by producing fruit which are mature for harvesting and shipment very early in the season, and which are further very large in size, and wherein further, the plant exhibits an upright growth pattern under the ecological conditions prevailing near Yanchep Springs, Western Australia.

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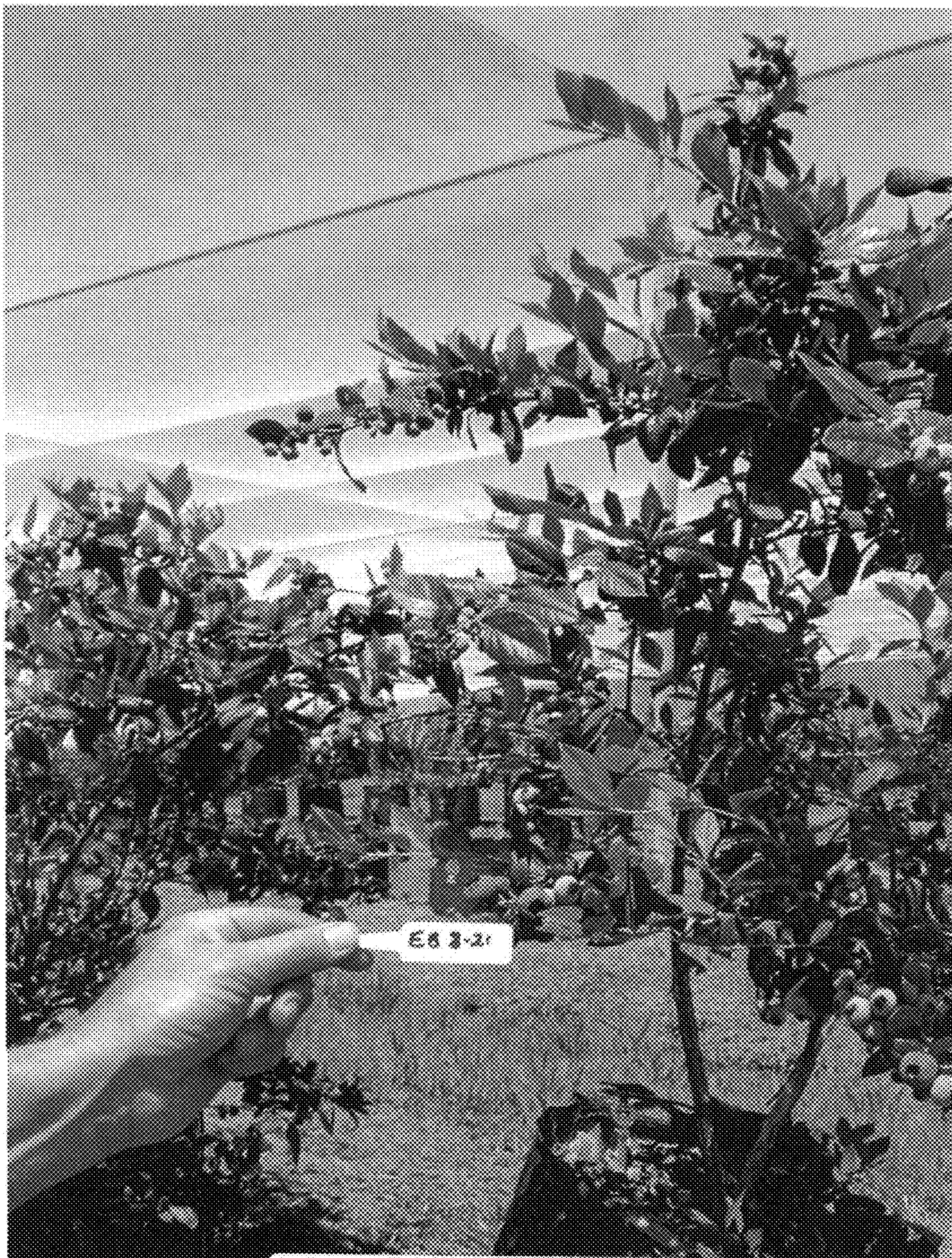


FIG. 1

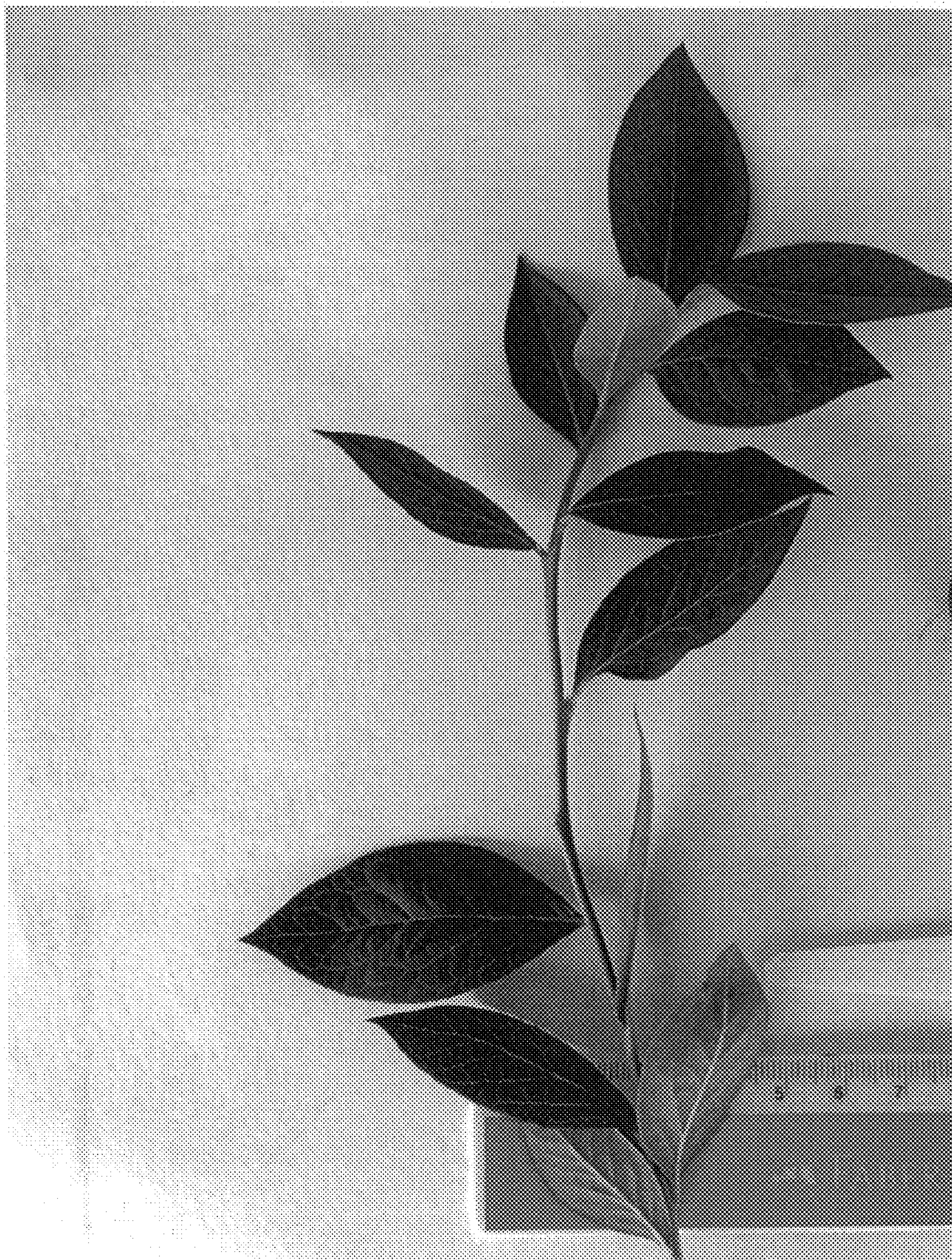


FIG. 2