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Dirr et al.

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(54) **LAGERSTROEMIA PLANT NAMED**
‘PIILAG-VI’

(50) Latin Name: ***Lagerstroemia* hybrid**
Varietal Denomination: **PIILAG-VI**

(71) Applicants: **Michael A. Dirr**, Bogart, GA (US);
Joshua H. Kardos, Watkinsville, GA
(US)

(72) Inventors: **Michael A. Dirr**, Bogart, GA (US);
Joshua H. Kardos, Watkinsville, GA
(US)

(73) Assignee: **Plant Introductions, Inc.**, Watkinsville,
GA (US)

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patent is extended or adjusted under 35
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See application file for complete search history.

Primary Examiner — Susan McCormick Ewoldt

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Lathrop & Gage LLP

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Lagerstroemia* plant named
‘PIILAG-VI’, characterized by its compact, rounded to
upright, intermediate growth habit, orange-red new growth,
dark green mature foliage, orange-red young stems, bright
red flowers, ability to rebloom in about 5-6 weeks if old
flowers are removed, and resistance to powdery mildew and
Cercospora leaf spot.

3 Drawing Sheets

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Genus and species of plant claimed: *Lagerstroemia*
Hybrid.

Variety denomination: ‘PIILAG-VI’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of *Lagerstroemia* plant, botanically known as *Lagerstroemia*
L., commonly known as crapemyrtle, and hereinafter referred
to by the cultivar name ‘PIILAG-VI’. ‘PIILAG-VI’ is grown
primarily as an ornamental for landscape use and for use as a
potted plant.

‘PIILAG-VI’ originated from an open-pollination of
Lagerstroemia ‘PIILAG-III’ (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 23,178)
growing in Watkinsville, Ga. in 2008. The cultivar ‘PIILAG-
VI’ originated and was selected in a cultivated environment in
Watkinsville, Ga. from the progeny of this open-pollination
by continued evaluation for growth habit and foliage and
flower characteristics.

Asexual reproduction of ‘PIILAG-VI’ by stem cuttings in
Watkinsville, Ga. since 2010 has shown that all the unique
features of this new *Lagerstroemia*, as herein described, are
stable and reproduced true-to-type through successive gen-
erations of such asexual propagation.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Plants of the new cultivar ‘PIILAG-VI’ have not been
observed under all possible environmental conditions. The
phenotype may vary somewhat with changes in light, tem-
perature, soil and rainfall without, however, any variance in
genotype.

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The following traits have been repeatedly observed and are
determined to be unique characteristics of ‘PIILAG-VI’.
These characteristics in combination distinguish ‘PIILAG-
VI’ as a new and distinct cultivar, unique from all other
cultivars known to the inventor: 1. Compact, rounded to
upright, intermediate growth habit; 2. Orange-red new
growth; 3. Dark green mature foliage; 4. Orange-red young
stems; 5. Bright red flowers; 6. Ability to rebloom in about 5-6
weeks if old flowers are removed; 7. Resistance to powdery
mildew and *Cercospora* leaf spot.

‘PIILAG-VI’ is distinguished from its female parent,
‘PIILAG-III’, by its growth habit, foliage color and disease
resistance. ‘PIILAG-VI’ has a compact, rounded to upright,
intermediate growth habit, orange-red new growth, and
improved resistance to *Cercospora* leaf spot, whereas
‘PIILAG-III’ has a compact, upright, intermediate growth
habit, red-purple new growth, and moderate resistance to
Cercospora leaf spot.

‘PIILAG-VI’ can be compared to the cultivar ‘PIILAG B5’
(U.S. Plant Pat. No. 25,476), but differs in the following
characteristics. ‘PIILAG-VI’ has an overall smaller rounded
to upright growth habit and brighter orange-red new growth
and stems, whereas ‘PIILAG B5’ has an overall larger upright
growth habit and darker red new growth and stems.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying color photographs illustrate the flower
and foliage characteristics and the overall appearance of
‘PIILAG-VI’, showing the colors as true as it is reasonably
possible to obtain in color 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 colors of the new *Lagerstroemia*.

FIG. 1 illustrates the overall appearance of a plant of 'PIILAG-VI' planted in the ground.

FIG. 2 illustrates a close-up view of the flowers of 'PIILAG-VI'.

FIG. 3 illustrates a close-up view of the new growth of 'PIILAG-VI'.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

In the following description, color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 2007 Edition, except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used. Plants used for the description were approximately two-years-old and were grown in 11.8 L containers under outdoor conditions in Watkinsville, Ga. Colors are described using The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart (R.H.S.).

Botanical classification: *Lagerstroemia* L., cultivar 'PIILAG-VI'.

Parentage:

Female, or seed, parent.—*Lagerstroemia* 'PIILAG-III' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 23,178).

Male, or pollen parent.—Unknown (open-pollinated).

Propagation: Terminal cuttings.

Time to initiate roots, summer: About 21 days at 32° C.

Plant description: Deciduous flowering shrub; compact, rounded to upright, intermediate growth habit. Freely branching; pruning enhances lateral branch development.

Root description.—Numerous, fine, fibrous and well-branched.

Plant size.—The original plant, now about five-years-old in the ground, is about 132 cm high from the soil level to the top of the inflorescences and about 118 cm wide. First year stems have a diameter of about 2.5 mm. Shape: squarish. Second year and older stems have a diameter of about 3.5 mm or more. Shape: round.

Trunk diameter.—2.6 cm at the soil line. Color: 199D.

Internode length.—About 1.4 cm.

Strength.—Flexible when young, easily broken once mature.

First year stem color (young).—42B. Color (woody): 200C.

Second year and older stem color.—N199B.

Bark.—Exfoliates in strips beginning on second or third year stems.

Vegetative buds: Sub-opposite to alternate in arrangement, imbricate, conical, with no pubescence.

Color.—183C.

Size.—About 3 mm in length and 2 mm in width.

Foliage description:

Arrangement.—Sub-opposite to alternate, simple.

Length.—About 5.2 cm.

Width.—About 2.6 cm.

Shape.—Elliptical.

Apex.—Acuminate.

Base.—Cuneate.

Margin.—Entire.

Texture (upper and lower surfaces).—Glabrous and glossy.

Venation pattern.—Pinnate.

Venation color of emerging foliage (upper surface).—183A.

Venation color of emerging foliage (lower surface).—178B.

Venation color of fully expanded foliage (upper surface).—178A at the base, changing to 174C at the apex.

Venation color of fully expanded foliage (lower surface).—174B.

Color in developing foliage (upper and lower surfaces).—42B.

Color in mature foliage (upper surface).—147A.

Color in mature foliage (lower surface).—146B.

Color of the leaf margin of mature foliage (upper and lower surfaces).—N186C.

Petiole length.—About 1.5 mm.

Petiole diameter.—About 1 mm.

Petiole color (upper and lower surfaces).—178A.

Pubescence.—None.

Flower description: Flowers are produced from about June to September in Watkinsville, Ga. If the plants are dead-headed, or the old flowers removed, they will rebloom in about 8-10 weeks. An inflorescence is showy for about two weeks, and individual flowers last about one day and are self-cleaning.

Inflorescence type.—Terminal panicle.

Inflorescence length.—About 11.7 cm.

Inflorescence width.—About 9.6 cm. Panicle contains between 30-50 flower buds and flowers.

Peduncle.—About 9.5 cm in length, about 2 mm in diameter, color is 181A, and no pubescence.

Individual flowers.—About 2.2 cm in height and 3.2 cm in diameter.

Flower buds.—Length: about 8 mm; Diameter: about 8 mm; Color: 46C. Unopened flower buds are globose with six distinct lines of dehiscence where they split to reveal the petals.

Pedicels.—About 8 mm in length, 44B in color, and no pubescence.

Calyx.—Consists of 6 fused sepals with acute apices and 176B in color. The calyx is about 9 mm in length, about 9 cm in diameter, 178B in color, and no pubescence.

Petals:

Arrangement/appearance.—Usually 6 per flower.

Petal length.—About 1.5 cm.

Petal width.—About 1.3 cm.

Petal shape.—Fan-shaped.

Petal apex.—Ruffled, rounded.

Petal base.—Sagittate.

Petal margin.—Ruffled.

Petal texture (upper and lower surfaces).—Glabrous.

Petal color.—Upper and lower surfaces are 46A.

Stamens:

Quantity/arrangement.—About 25 to 30 short stamens clustered in the center, about 8 mm long, filament color is 37C, and anther color is 13A. The short stamens are surrounded by 6 longer stamens, about 1.4 cm long, filament color is 44C, and anther color is 13A. The stamens are not pubescent. Pollen: produced in moderate quantities and is 7B in color on all stamens.

Pistils:

Quantity.—One superior pistil per flower.

Pubescence.—None.

Pistil length.—About 1.9 cm in length.

Stigma shape.—Round, about 1 mm in diameter.

Stigma color.—144B.

Style color.—41C and about 1.4 cm in length.
Ovary color.—10B and about 2.5 mm in diameter.
Fruit:
Type/appearance.—Six-valved, dehiscent, broad ellip-
soidal capsule. 5
Length.—About 8 mm.
Diameter.—About 8 mm.
Immature color.—144A.
Mature color.—200C. Each capsule contains many
seeds that are about 5 mm long, 3 mm wide, and 200C 10
in color.

Disease/pest resistance: Plants of ‘PIILAG-VI’ grown in field
and container trials have exhibited resistance to powdery
mildew and *Cercospora* leaf spot. ‘PIILAG-VI’ is cold
hardy in USDA Cold Hardiness Zones 6-9.
We claim:
1. A new and distinct *Lagerstroemia* plant named
‘PIILAG-VI’, as illustrated and described herein.
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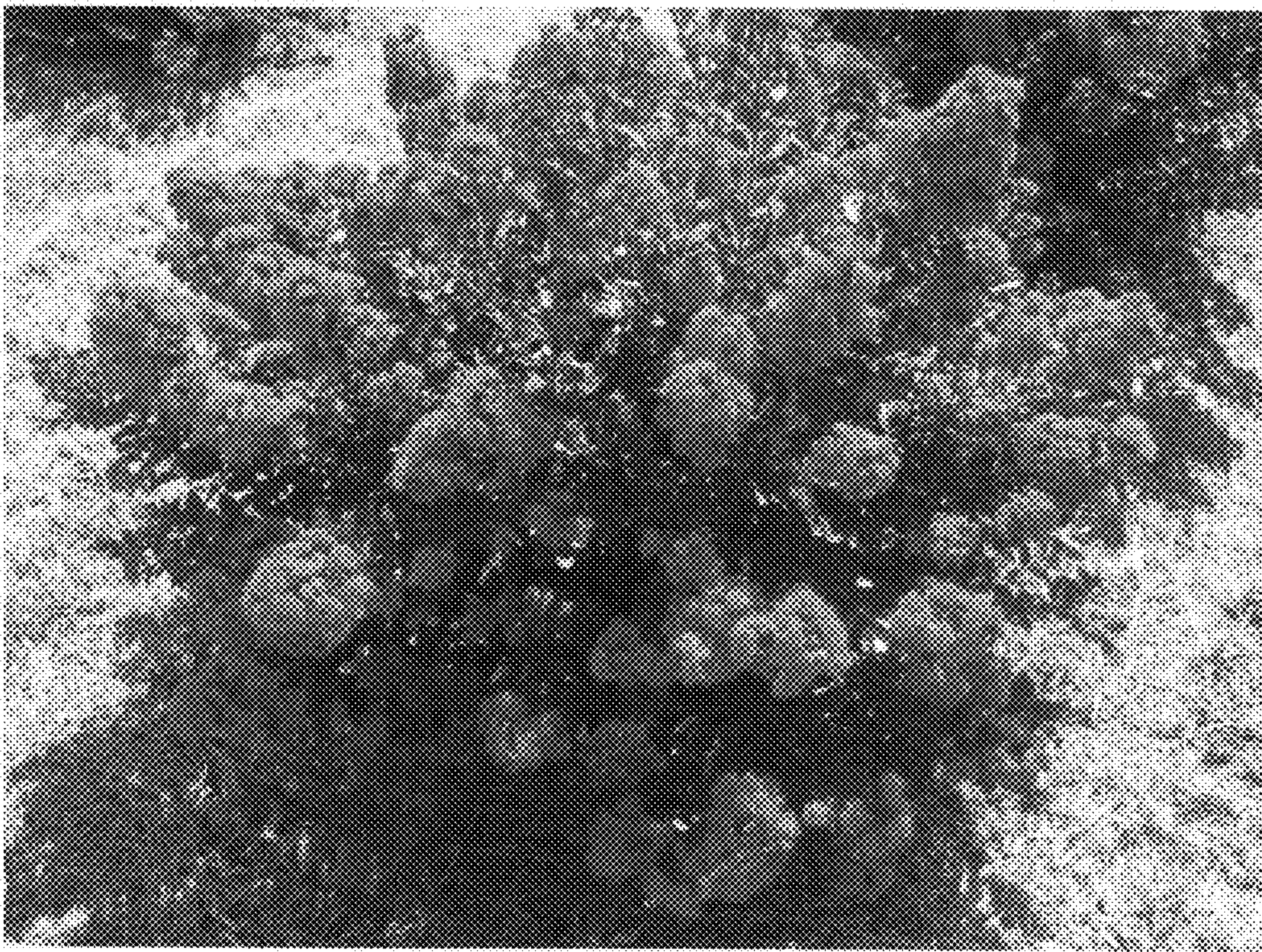


FIGURE 1

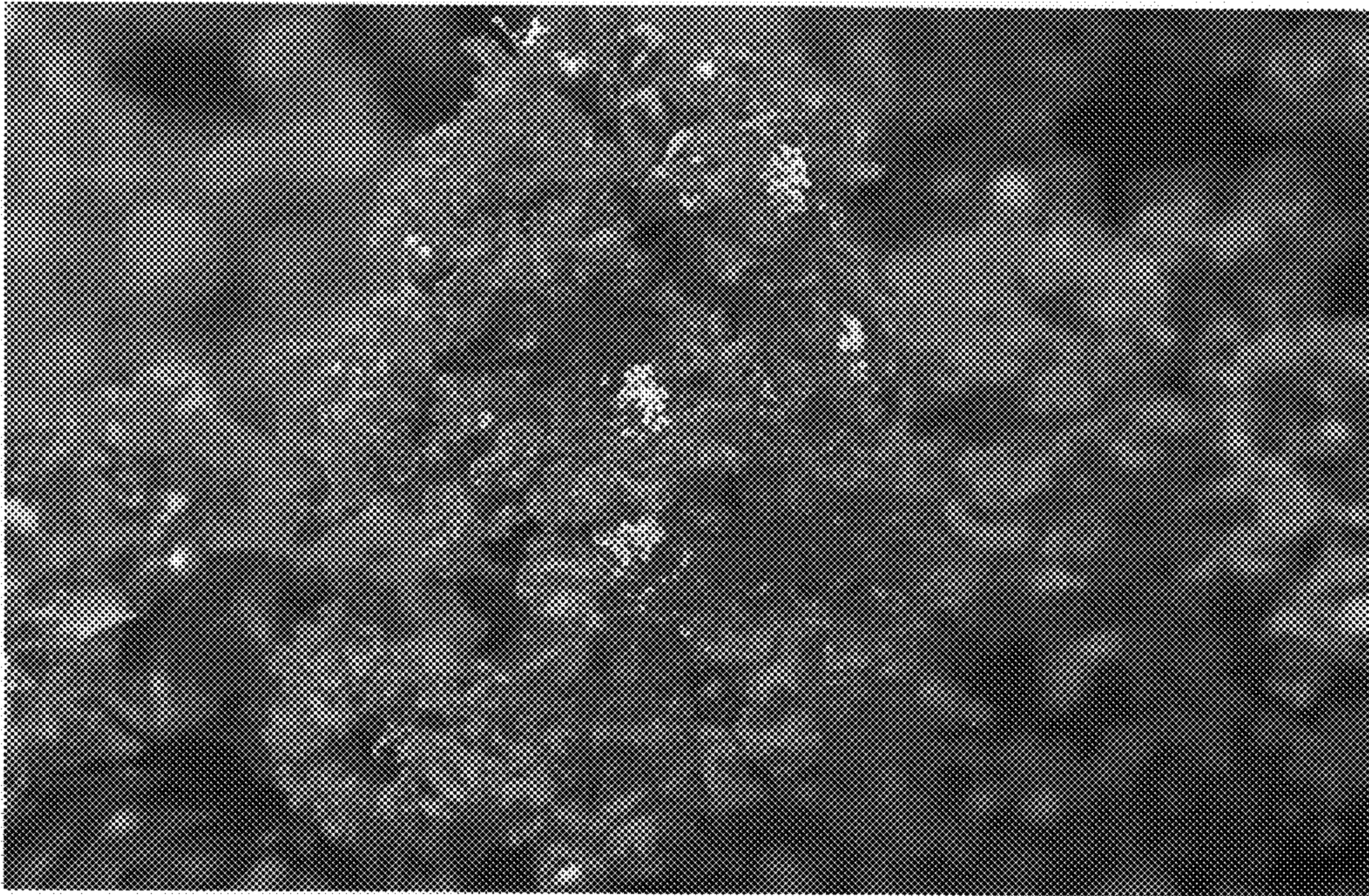


FIGURE 2



FIGURE 3