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(54) HIBISCUS PLANT NAMED 'SHIMCR1'

(50) Latin Name: *Hibiscus syriacus*Varietal Denomination: **SHIMCR1**

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(57) ABSTRACT

A new and distinct cultivar of *Hibiscus* plant named 'SHIMCR1', characterized by its relatively compact and upright to outwardly spreading plant habit; vigorous growth habit; freely branching habit; large and flat flowers with dark pink-colored undulate petals and dark red-colored centers and venation; and good garden performance.

2 Drawing Sheets

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Botanical designation: *Hibiscus syriacus*. Cultivar denomination: 'SHIMCR1'.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of *Hibiscus*, botanically known as *Hibiscus syriacus*, commercially known as Rose-of-Sharon or Althea, and hereinafter referred to by the name 'SHIMCR1'.

The new *Hibiscus* plant is a product of a planned breeding program conducted by the Inventor in Suwon, Korea. The objective of the breeding program was to develop new *Hibiscus* plants with large attractive flowers.

The new *Hibiscus* plant originated from a cross-pollination conducted by the Inventor in July, 2002 of *Hibiscus syriacus* 15 'Kwangmyung', not patented, as the female, or seed, parent with *Hibiscus syriacus* 'Samchulli', not patented, as the male, or pollen, parent. The new *Hibiscus* plant was discovered and selected by the Inventor in July, 2008 as a single flowering plant within the progeny of the stated cross-pollination in a 20 controlled environment in Suwon, Korea.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Hibiscus* plant by softwood cuttings since June, 2009 in a controlled environment in Suwon, Korea has shown that the unique features of this new *Hibiscus* plant are stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations of asexual reproduction.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Plants of the new *Hibiscus* have not been observed under all possible environmental conditions and cultural practices. The phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in environmental conditions such as temperature and light intensity without, however, any variance in genotype.

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and are 35 determined to be the unique characteristics of 'SHIMCR1'. These characteristics in combination distinguish 'SHIMCR1' as a new and distinct *Hibiscus* plant:

1. Relatively compact and upright to outwardly spreading plant habit.

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- 2. Vigorous growth habit.
- 3. Freely branching habit.
- 4. Large and flat flowers with dark pink-colored undulate petals and dark red-colored centers and venation.
- 5. Good garden performance.

Plants of the new *Hibiscus* can be compared to plants of the female parent, 'Kwangmyung'. Plants of the new *Hibiscus* differ primarily from plants of 'Kwangmyung' in the following characteristics:

- 1. Petals of plants of the new *Hibiscus* are broader than petals of plants of 'Kwangmyung'.
- 2. Petals of plants of the new *Hibiscus* are imbricate whereas petals of plants of 'Kwangmyung' are not imbricate.
- 3. Petals of plants of the new *Hibiscus* are more undulate than petals of plants of 'Kwangmyung'.

Plants of the new *Hibiscus* can be compared to plants of the male parent, 'Samchulli'. Plants of the new *Hibiscus* differ primarily from plants of 'Samchulli' in the following characteristics:

- 1. Flowers of plants of the new *Hibiscus* have a larger "eye" than flowers of plants of 'Samchulli'.
- 2. Petals of plants of the new *Hibiscus* are imbricate whereas petals of plants of 'Samchulli' are not imbricate.
- 3. Petals of plants of the new *Hibiscus* are more undulate than petals of plants of 'Samchulli'.
- 4. Petals of plants of the new *Hibiscus* are dark pink in color whereas petals of plants of 'Samchulli' are lavender pink in color.

Plants of the new *Hibiscus* can be compared to plants of the *Hibiscus syriacus* 'Minrosa', disclosed in U.S. Plant patent application Ser. No. 09/642,987 (abandoned). In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Grand Haven, Mich., plants of the new *Hibiscus* differed from plants of 'Minrosa' in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Hibiscus* were more compact than plants of 'Minrosa'.

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- 2. Plants of the new *Hibiscus* had larger flowers than plants of 'Minrosa'.
- 3. Plants of the new *Hibiscus* had dark pink-colored flowers whereas plants of 'Minrosa' had soft pink-colored flowers ers.
- 4. Petals of plants of the new *Hibiscus* were more undulate than petals of plants of 'Minrosa'.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying colored photographs illustrate the overall appearance of the new *Hibiscus* plant showing the colors as true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in 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 colors of the new *Hibiscus* plant.

The photograph on the first sheet is a side perspective view of a typical plant of 'SHIMCR1' grown in a ground bed in an outdoor nursery.

The photograph on the second sheet is a close-up view of a typical flower of 'SHIMCR1'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The aforementioned photographs and following observations, measurements and values describe plants grown in ground beds and three-gallon containers during the spring and summer in an outdoor nursery in Grand Haven, Mich. and under cultural practices typical of commercial *Hibiscus* production. Plants were three years old when the photographs and the description were taken. In the following detailed description, color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 1995 Edition, except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used. Botanical classification: *Hibiscus syriacus* 'SHIMCR1'. Parentage:

Female, or seed, parent.—Hibiscus syriacus 'Kwangmyung', not patented.

Male, or pollen, parent.—Hibiscus syriacus 'Sam-chulli', not patented.

Propagation:

Type.—By softwood cuttings.

Time to initiate roots, summer.—About four weeks at temperatures about 24° C.

Time to produce a rooted young plant, summer.—About six months at temperatures about 24° C.

Root description.—Thick, white in color.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching; dense.

Plant description:

Plant and growth habit.—Perennial deciduous shrub; relatively compact and upright to outwardly spreading plant habit; vigorous growth habit.

Branching habit.—Freely branching habit, usually about four primary basal branches with numerous secondary lateral branches developing per plant; pinching enhances lateral branch development.

Plant height.—About 59 cm.

Plant diameter (area of spread).—About 34 cm.

Lateral branch description:

Length.—About 28 cm.

Diameter.—About 5 mm.

Internode length.—About 3.5 cm.

Texture, immature.—Smooth, glabrous.

Texture, mature.—Woody.

Color, immature.—Close to 137A.

Color, mature.—Close to 197A. Leaf description:

Arrangement.—Alternate, simple.

Length.—About 7.1 cm.

Width.—About 6 cm.

Shape.—Ovate.

Apex.—Retuse.

Base.—Cuneate.

Margin.—Lobed.

Texture, upper and lower surfaces.—Pubescent; coarse. Venation pattern.—Palmate; reticulate.

Color.—Developing leaves, upper surface: Close to 137A. Developing leaves, lower surface: Close to 137C. Fully expanded leaves, upper surface: Close to 139A; venation, close to 139A. Fully expanded leaves, lower surface: Close to 137B; venation, close to 139B.

Petiole.—Length: About 1.5 cm. Diameter: About 2 mm. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 137B.

²⁵ Flower description:

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Flower appearance and arrangement.—Single rotate flowers; flowers terminal and axillary; freely flowering habit with usually about six flowers developing per lateral branch; flowers face upright to outwardly.

Flower longevity.—Flowers last for about two to three days on the plant; flowers not persistent.

Natural flowering season.—Plants of the new Hibiscus flower continuously throughout the summer in Michigan.

Flower diameter.—About 8.5 cm.

Flower length (height): About 5.5 cm.

Flower buds.—Length: About 2.5 cm. Diameter: About 2 cm. Shape: Ovate. Color: Close to 59A and 63A.

Petals.—Arrangement and quantity: Single whorl of five petals; petals imbricate. Length: About 5.5 cm. Width: About 6.5 cm. Shape: Roughly orbicular. Apex: Broadly obtuse. Base: Attenuate. Margin: Entire; undulate. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Rugose, glabrous. Color: When opening, upper surface: Close to 66B to 66C; towards the base and venation, close to 46A. When opening, lower surface: Close to 66B to 66C; towards the base and venation, close to 45D. Fully opened, upper surface: Close to 66C to 66D; towards the base and venation, close to 46A. Fully opened, lower surface: Close to 66C to 66D; towards the base and venation, close to 45D. Throat: Close to 46A. Tube: Close to 45D.

Sepals.—Arrangement and quantity: Single whorl of five sepals fused into a tubular calyx. Length: About 2 cm. Width: About 7 mm. Shape: Subulate. Apex: Acute. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color, when opening and fully opened, upper surface: Close to 137D. Color, when opening and fully opened, lower surface: Close to 139C.

Peduncles.—Length: About 1.6 cm. Diameter: About 5 mm. Strength: Strong. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Angle: About 30° to 50° from the stem axis. Color: Close to 137D.

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Reproductive organs.—Androecium: Quantity per flower: About 54. Anther shape: Oval. Anther length: About 2 mm. Anther color: Close to 11B. Amount of pollen: Abundant. Pollen color: Close to 11C. Gynoecium: Quantity per flower: One. Pistil length: About 5.5 cm. Style length: About 3.7 cm. Style color: Close to 13D. Stigma appearance: Five-parted, rounded. Stigma color: Close to 13D. Ovary color: Close to 70D.

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Seeds and fruits.—Seed and fruit development have not been observed on plants of the new *Hibiscus*.

Garden performance: Plants of the new *Hibiscus* have been observed to have excellent garden performance and to tolerate rain, wind and temperatures ranging from about -20° C. to about 43° C.

Pathogen & pest resistance: Plants of the new *Hibiscus* have not been shown to be resistant to pathogens and pests common to *Hibiscus* plants.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct *Hibiscus* plant named 'SHIMCR1' as illustrated and described.

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