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Nir

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(54) **CHAMELAUCIUM PLANT NAMED ‘MARS’**

(50) Latin Name: *Chamelaucium uncinatum*
Varietal Denomination: **MARS**

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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 104 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 *Chamelaucium* cultivar named ‘MARS’ is disclosed, characterized by unique flower size and color, bud size, large quantity of buds and flowers, branch structure and date of blooming. The new variety is a *Chamelaucium*, normally producing cut flower stems, or as a garden or container plant.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Latin name of the genus and species: *Chamelaucium uncinatum*.
Variety denomination: ‘MARS’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The new *Chamelaucium* cultivar is a product of a planned breeding program conducted by the inventor, Nitzan Nir, in Kfar Hess, Israel. The objective of the breeding program was to produce new *Chamelaucium* varieties for ornamental commercial applications. The new variety is a product of cross-breeding that occurred during 2010 at a commercial nursery in Kfar Hess, Israel.

The seed parent is the unpatented, proprietary seedling variety *Chamelaucium* ‘2W140M003’. The pollen parent is the unpatented, variety *Chamelaucium* ‘Early Violet’. The new variety was discovered in March of 2011 by the inventor in a group of seedlings resulting from the 2010 crossing, in a commercial nursery in Kfar Hess, Israel.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar has been performed by vegetative cuttings. This was first performed at a commercial nursery in Kfar Hess, Israel in May of 2011 and has shown that the unique features of this cultivar are stable and reproduced true to type in five successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The cultivar ‘MARS’ has not been observed under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in environment such as temperature, day length, and light intensity, without, however, any variance in genotype.

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and are determined to be the unique characteristics of ‘MARS’. These characteristics in combination distinguish ‘MARS’ as a new and distinct *Chamelaucium* cultivar:

1. Bright pink flower color
2. Large quantity of buds and flowers

PARENT COMPARISON

Plants of the new cultivar ‘MARS’ are similar to plants of the seed parent, *Chamelaucium* ‘2W140M003’ in most hor-

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tical characteristics, however, plants of the new cultivar ‘MARS’ produce a different flower size and bloom at a different time than the seed parent.

Plants of the new cultivar ‘MARS’ are similar to plants of the pollen parent; *Chamelaucium* ‘Early Violet’ in most horticultural characteristics, however, plants of the new cultivar ‘MARS’ produce a different bud size, more buds and flowers, different branch structure and different date of bloom than the pollen parent.

COMMERCIAL COMPARISON

‘MARS’ can be compared to the Unpatented commercial variety *Chamelaucium* ‘M.B. Violet’, Plants of ‘MARS’ are similar to plants of ‘M.B. Violet’ in most horticultural characteristics, however, plants of ‘MARS’ produce a different bud size, more buds and flowers and different branch structure than the comparator.

‘MARS’ can be compared to the commercial variety *Chamelaucium* ‘Umbrella’ U.S. Plant patent application Ser. No. 13/986,493. Plants of ‘MARS’ are similar to plants of ‘Umbrella’ in most horticultural characteristics, however, plants of ‘MARS’ produce a different flower color, date of blooming and branch structure than the comparator.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH

The accompanying photograph in FIG. 1 illustrates in full color a close up of typical flowers and foliage of ‘MARS’ at approximately 1 year of age. The photograph was taken using conventional techniques and although colors may appear different from actual colors due to light reflectance it is as accurate as possible by conventional photographic techniques.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

In the following description, color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart 2007 except

where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used. The following observations and measurements describe 'MARS' plants grown outdoors in Kfar Hess, Israel. The growing temperature ranged from 15° C. to 35° C. during the day and from -2° C. to 35° C. during the night. General light conditions are bright, normal sunlight. Measurements and numerical values represent averages of typical plant types. Chemical treatments included general fungicides and insecticides.

Botanical classification: *Chamaelucium uncinatum* 'MARS'.

PROPAGATION

Time to produce a rooted plantlet: 30 to 60 days at approximately 24° C.

Root description: Fibrous.

Root color: Varies, new root growth near Orange 159D, older, woodier roots near Grey-Brown N 199A, 199A, 199B.

PLANT

Age of plant described: 2 months from a rooted cutting.

Growth habit:

Pot size of plant described: 2 liter pot.

Height: 200 cm to top of foliage: 199 cm to top of flowers:

Plant spread: 80 cm.

Growth rate: Rapid.

Branching characteristics: Free branching.

Length of primary lateral branches: 60 cm and on.

Diameter of lateral branches: 0.4 cm.

Quantity of primary lateral branches: 120-150.

Characteristics of primary lateral branches:

Form.—Round.

Diameter.—0.5 cm.

Color.—Near RHS Yellow-Green 147A.

Texture.—Smooth.

Strength.—Stems brittle.

Internode length: 1.5-5 cm.

FOLIAGE

Leaf:

Arrangement.—Opposite.

Quantity.—Approximately 6 leaves, in the 10-15 cm section from the top of the branch.

Average length.—1.5 cm.

Average width.—0.1 cm.

Shape of blade.—Needle.

Apex.—Acute.

Base.—Attenuate.

Margin.—Entire.

Texture of surfaces.—All surfaces glabrous.

Pubescence.—None.

Aspect.—Straight, approximately 45 degree angle from stem.

Color.—Young foliage: Near RHS Yellow-Green 147B.

Mature foliage: Near RHS Green 137A.

Venation.—Indistinguishable from foliage.

Petiole.—Not present.

FLOWER

Natural flowering season: Plants planted during April through October begin flowering December through February, without a juvenility period in Kfar Hess, Israel. Plants flower continuously under short day conditions.

Days to flowering from rooted cutting: Short day photoperiodic conditions. No juvenility.

Inflorescence type: Terminal and axillary occurring panicle.

Individual flower type: Single, rotate 5 petaled with an obconical shaped hypanthium. Flowers outwardly facing.

Persistent or self-cleaning: Self-Cleaning.

Rate of flower opening: 70 to 90 days from bud to fully opened flower.

Typical flowering stem length: Approximately 60 to 80 cm.

Typical flowering stems harvested per plant: 120-150.

Vase life of flowers: Two weeks. Approximately 45 to 60 days on the plant.

Bud:

Shape.—Round.

Length.—0.35 cm.

Diameter.—0.35 cm.

Color.—Near Red-Purple 67A.

Texture.—Glabrous.

Inflorescence size:

Diameter.—Average 15 cm.

Length.—Average 10 cm.

Flower size:

Diameter.—1.5 cm.

Length.—0.7 cm.

Corolla:

Petals.—Length: 0.45 cm. Diameter: 0.4 cm. Quantity: 5. Texture: Smooth upper and lower surfaces. Apex: Obtuse rounded. Base: Fused into a hypanthium.

Color.—When opening: Upper surface: Near Red-purple 67C. Lower surface: Near Red-purple 67B. Fully opened: Upper surface: Near Red-purple 68A. Lower surface: Near Red-purple 68A. Aging: Upper surface: Near Red-purple 68B. Lower surface: Near Red-purple 68B.

Hypanthium:

Diameter.—0.7 cm.

Length.—0.3 cm.

Shape.—Obconical.

Color.—When opening: Upper surface: Near Red-purple 71A. Lower surface: Near Red-purple 70C. Fully opened: Upper surface: Near Red-purple 71A. Lower surface: Near Red-purple 70C. Aging: Upper surface: Near Red-purple 71A. Lower surface: Near Red-purple 70C.

Calyx/sepals:

Quantity per flower.—Single conical structure.

Shape.—Conic.

Length.—0.3 cm.

Width.—0.7 cm.

Margin.—Entire, incised approximately 1 mm.

Texture.—Smooth outer and inner surfaces.

Color.—Near RHS Greyed-Red 182A.

Peduncle: Peduncle is the lateral branch.

Pedicel:

Length.—0.7 cm.

Diameter.—0.1 cm.

Color.—Near Yellow-Green 147B.

Fragrance: None.

REPRODUCTIVE ORGANS

Stamens:

Number.—10.

Filament length.—1 mm.

Filament color.—Near RHS Red 49C.

Anthers:

Shape.—Oval.

Length.—0.25-0.5 mm.

Width.—0.15 mm.

Color.—Near Red-Purple 70C.

Pollen: Not observed.

Pistil:

Number.—1.

Length.—0.45 cm.

Style.—Length: 0.44 cm. Color: Near Red-Purple 68D.

Stigma.—Shape: Round. Color: Near Red-Purple 68D. 10

OTHER CHARACTERISTICS

Seeds and fruits: Single flower produces one fruit. When the fruit is fertile, it will produce 1 seed, occasionally 2 seeds. 15

Fruit type is a nut, colored near Grey-Brown N199A, seed is unwinged colored approximately 1.5 mm, brown in color, too minute to accurately measure color with RHS chart.

5 Disease/pest resistance: Neither resistance nor susceptibility to the normal diseases and pests of *Chamelaucium* have been observed to date.

Temperature tolerance: From -2° C. to 35° C.

Drought tolerance: Very good tolerance for drought.

What is claimed is:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Chamelaucium* plant named 'MARS' as herein illustrated and described.

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