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Sills et al.

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(54) **BLACKBERRY PLANT NAMED**
‘DRISBLACKEIGHT’

(50) Latin Name: ***Rubus* L. subgenus *Rubus***
Varietal Denomination: **DrisBlackEight**

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patent is extended or adjusted under 35
U.S.C. 154(b) by 155 days.

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USPC **Plt./203**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

This invention relates to a new and distinct variety of black-
berry plant named ‘DrisBlackEight’, particularly character-
ized by medium to high yields, long production season and
self-fruitful plants, is disclosed.

2 Drawing Sheets

1

Genus and species: *Rubus* L. subgenus *Rubus*.
Variety denomination: ‘DrisBlackEight’.

BACKGROUND OF THE NEW PLANT

The present invention relates to a new and distinct black-
berry cultivar designated ‘DrisBlackEight’ and botanically
known as *Rubus* L. subgenus *Rubus*. This new blackberry
variety was identified in Santa Cruz County, Calif. in June
2004 and originated from a cross between the proprietary
female parent blackberry plant ‘BH934-7’ (unpatented) and
the proprietary male parent blackberry plant ‘BH936-6’ (un-
patented). The original seedling of the new cultivar was first
asexually propagated by tissue culture and root cuttings at a
nursery in Santa Cruz County, Calif. in 2004. ‘DrisBlack-
Eight’ was subsequently asexually propagated by tissue cul-
ture and root cuttings and underwent further testing at a
nursery in Santa Cruz County, Calif. from 2010 to 2012. The
present invention has been found to be stable and reproduce
true to type through successive asexual propagations.

Plant Breeder’s Rights for this variety have not been
applied for. ‘DrisBlackEight’ has not been made publicly
available or sold anywhere in the world more than one year
prior to the filing date of this application.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The following are the most outstanding and distinguishing
characteristics of this new cultivar when grown under normal
horticultural practices in Santa Cruz County, Calif.

1. Medium to high yields;
2. Long production season; and
3. Self-fruitful plants.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

This new blackberry plant is illustrated by the accompany-
ing photographs which show the plant’s canes, fruit, and

2

leaves. The colors shown are as true as can be reasonably
obtained by conventional photographic procedures. The pho-
tographs are of plants that are 2 years old.

FIG. 1 shows a section of a young cane without spines.

FIG. 2 shows the flowers and the fruit at various stages.

FIG. 3 shows the upper and lower surfaces of the leaves.

DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW VARIETY

The following descriptions of ‘DrisBlackEight’ are based
on observations made in Santa Cruz County, Calif. on 2-year
old plants. This description is in accordance with UPOV
terminology. Color designations, color descriptions, and
other phenotypical descriptions may deviate from the stated
values and descriptions depending upon variation in environ-
mental, seasonal, climatic and cultural conditions. ‘Dris-
BlackEight’ has not been observed under all possible envi-
ronmental conditions. Color terminology follows The Royal
Horticultural Society Colour Chart, London (R.H.S.) (2007
edition). Descriptive terminology is from the *Plant Identifi-
cation Terminology, An Illustrated Glossary 2nd* edition, by
James G. Harris and Melinda Woolf Harris, unless where
otherwise defined.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

Classification:

Family.—Rosaceae.

Botanical.—*Rubus* L. subgenus *Rubus*.

Common name.—Blackberry.

Variety name.—‘DrisBlackEight’.

Parentage:

Female parent.—Proprietary blackberry plant named
‘BH934-7’ (unpatented).

Male parent.—Proprietary blackberry plant named
‘BH936-6’ (unpatented).

Plant:

Vigor.—Medium.

Growth habit.—Upright to semi-upright.

Productivity.—Medium.

Propagation.—Tissue culture and root cuttings.

Self-fruitfulness.—Self-fruitful.

Time of bud burst.—Early; February 28.

Canes:

Fruiting lateral length (4th lateral from tip).—Average: Short; 47.8 cm.

Number of fruit per lateral.—Average: 9.3.

Fruiting on current year's cane.—Absent.

Cane internodal distance.—Average: 6.5 cm.

Number of new canes during flowering.—Medium; 3-5.

New cane strength (observed full-grown shoot after picking).—Strong.

Glaucosity observed on full-grown shoot after picking.—Medium.

Young shoots.—Quantity: Medium; 6-8 new suckers by the end of the season. Time of emergence from soil: Medium; late May. Anthocyanin coloration (during rapid growth): Strong; RHS 173A (Dark greyed-orange). Intensity of green color: Medium; RHS 144A (Medium yellow-green). Number of glandular hairs: Medium.

Dormant cane.—Length: Medium. Diameter (in central third): Medium. Cross section (from mid cane observed at end of first growing season): Rounded to angular. Color: Sunny side: RHS 187A (Dark greyed-purple). Shade side: RHS 144A (Medium yellow-green). Number of branches: Medium. Distribution of branches: Only on upper third. Anthocyanin coloration: Medium; RHS 187A (Dark greyed-purple). Spines: Number of spines: Very few. Size: Small. Color: RHS 183C (Medium greyed-purple). Density (on central third of cane): Sparse. Texture: Medium to heavy; semi-smooth. Attitude of apex in relation to cane: Outwards and downwards.

Leaves:

Type.—Palmate.

Predominant number of leaflets.—Three.

Overlapping or relative position of lateral leaflets.—Free.

Color.—Upper surface: Medium; RHS N137B (Dark green). Lower surface: Medium; RHS 144A (Medium yellow-green).

Glossiness of upper side.—Medium.

Cross section profile.—Concave (margins rolled inwards).

Leaflets.—Shape: Ovate. Margin: Doubly serrate. Depth of incisions: Medium. Type of incision margin: Bisserrate. Apex: Convex. Base: Cuneate. Rachis length between terminal leaflet and adjacent lateral leaflet: Average: 49.7 mm.

Lateral leaflet (basal pair).—Length: Average: 66.6 mm. Width: Average: 44.6 mm. Length/width ratio: 1.5.

Terminal leaflet.—Length: Average: Short; 83.2 mm. Width: Average: Medium; 61.9 mm. Length/width ratio: 1.3. Lobing: Absent. Undulation of margin (rippling of margin): Strong. Blistering between veins (rugosity): Medium. Shape: Oval. Tip: Truncate. Base: Obtuse. Margin: Doubly serrate. Cross-section: V-shaped.

Petiole.—Length average: 20.6 mm. Diameter average: 1.2 mm. Pigmentation: Upper surface: Medium; RHS N144A (Medium yellow-green). Lower surface: Medium; RHS N144A (Medium yellow-green).

Stipule.—Size: Small; 14.4 mm on average. Orientation: Erect.

Inflorescence:

Time of beginning of flowering on previous year's cane.—Early; mid-May.

Time of beginning of flowering on current year's cane.—N/A.

Flower diameter.—Average: Small to medium; 41.22 mm.

Flower number (at 3rd node from tip of lateral).—Average: 1.

Petal.—Length: Average: 18.9 mm. Width: Average: 11.80 mm. Length/width ratio: 1.6. Color: RHS N155B (White).

Pedicel.—Length: Average: 40.9 mm. Diameter: Average: 0.98 mm.

Fruit:

Time of ripening on previous year's cane.—Early to medium; mid-June.

Time of ripening on current year's cane.—N/A.

Harvest interval.—Mid-June to early October.

Color.—Immature: RHS 146C (Medium yellow-green).

Maturing: RHS 185A (Dark greyed-purple). Mature: RHS 202A (Black).

Glossiness.—Medium to strong.

Shape in longitudinal section.—Long conical.

Size.—Medium to large.

Length.—Average: Medium long to long; 34.32 mm.

Width.—Average: Medium; 21.15 mm.

Ratio of length to width.—1.6 (longer than broad).

Weight (g/fruit).—4.5 g.

Soluble solids (%) (in Brix).—12.2.

Titrateable acidity.—(% as citric acid): 1.04.

Seed weight (g/seed).—0.354.

Number of drupelets/fruit.—Medium; 70.

Size of drupelet.—Medium to large.

Firmness.—Firm.

Yield.—Medium to high.

Disease, pest, and stress resistance: Not tested.

COMPARISON WITH PARENTAL AND
COMMERCIAL VARIETIES

'DrisBlackEight' differs from the proprietary female parent 'BH934-7' (unpatented) in that 'DrisBlackEight' has much larger size fruit than 'BH934-7'. Additionally, 'DrisBlackEight' has thorns, whereas 'BH934-7' is thornless.

'DrisBlackEight' differs from the proprietary male parent 'BH936-6' (unpatented) in that 'DrisBlackEight' has earlier production and larger size fruit than 'BH936-6'.

'DrisBlackEight' differs from the commercial variety 'Driscoll Carmel' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 15,058) in that 'DrisBlackEight' has medium productivity and oval shaped terminal leaflets, whereas 'Driscoll Carmel' has high productivity and ovate shaped terminal leaflets. Additionally, 'DrisBlackEight' has long conical shaped fruit, whereas 'Driscoll Carmel' has ovate shaped fruit.

'DrisBlackEight' differs from commercial variety 'Driscoll Eureka' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 14,765) in that 'DrisBlackEight' has oval shaped terminal leaflets with truncate tips, whereas 'Driscoll Eureka' has ovate shaped terminal leaflets with acuminate tips. Additionally, 'DrisBlackEight' has long conical shaped fruit, whereas 'Driscoll Eureka' has ovate shaped fruit.

We claim:

1. A new and distinct variety of blackberry plant named 'DrisBlackEight' as described and shown herein.

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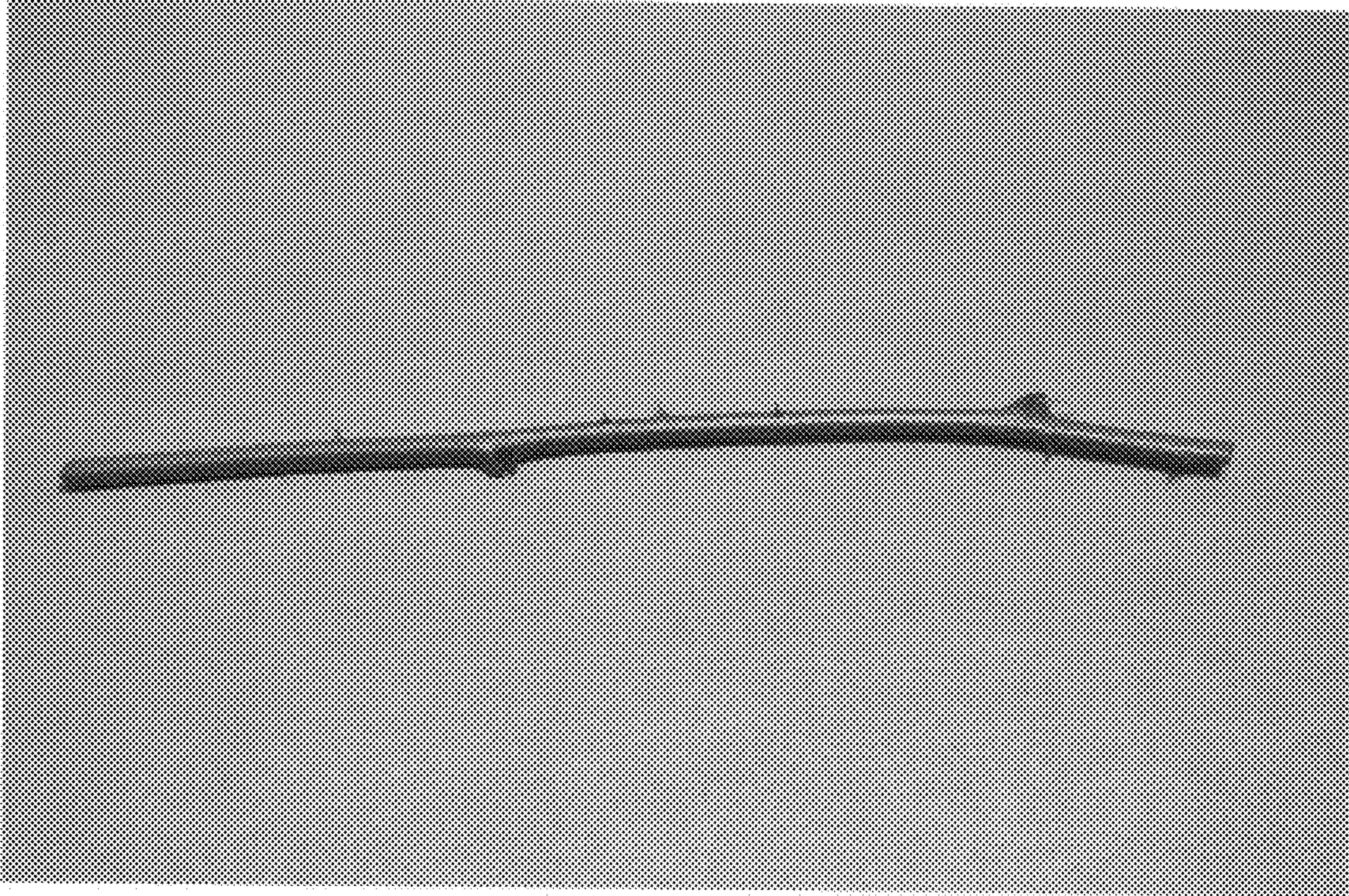


FIG. 1

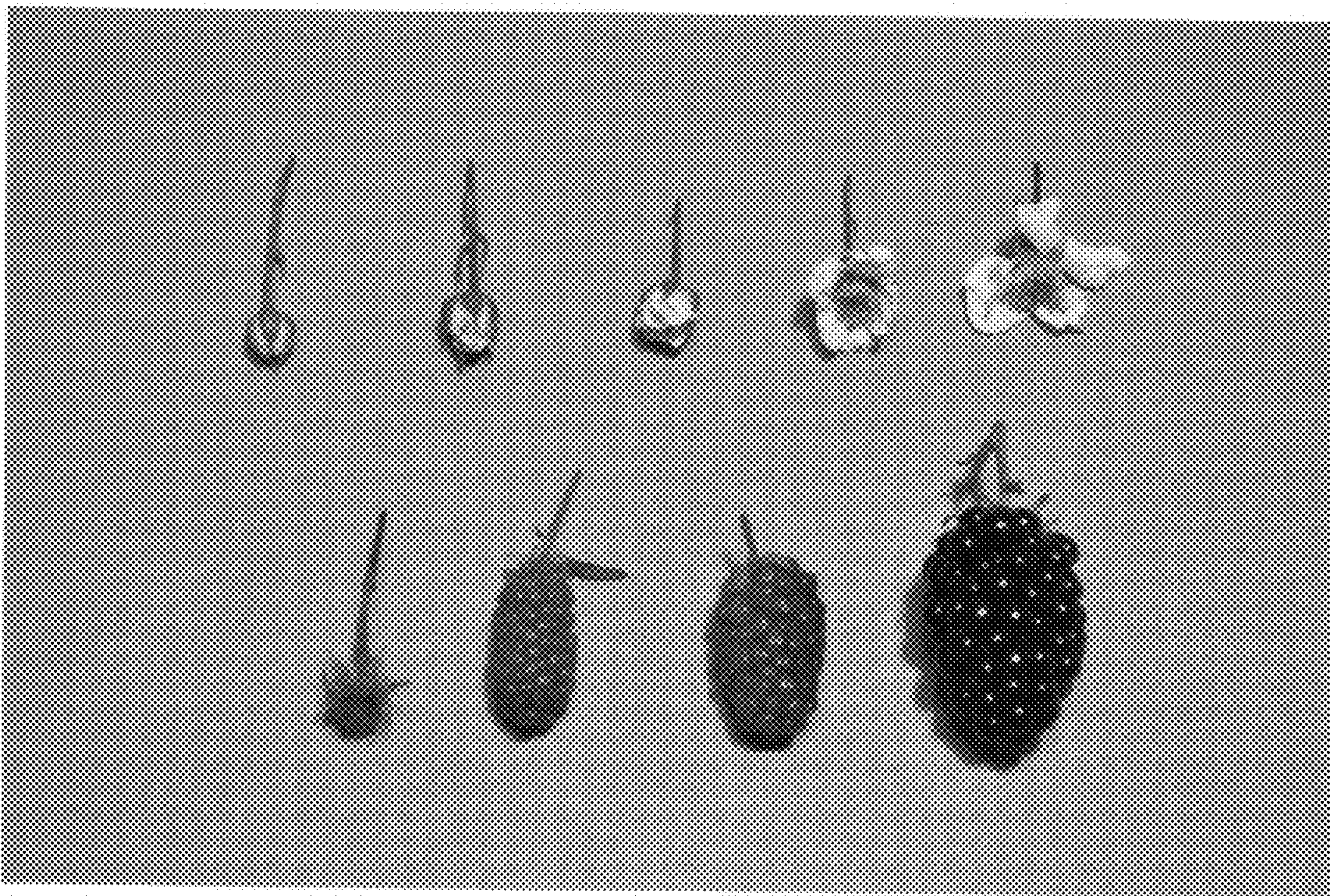


FIG. 2

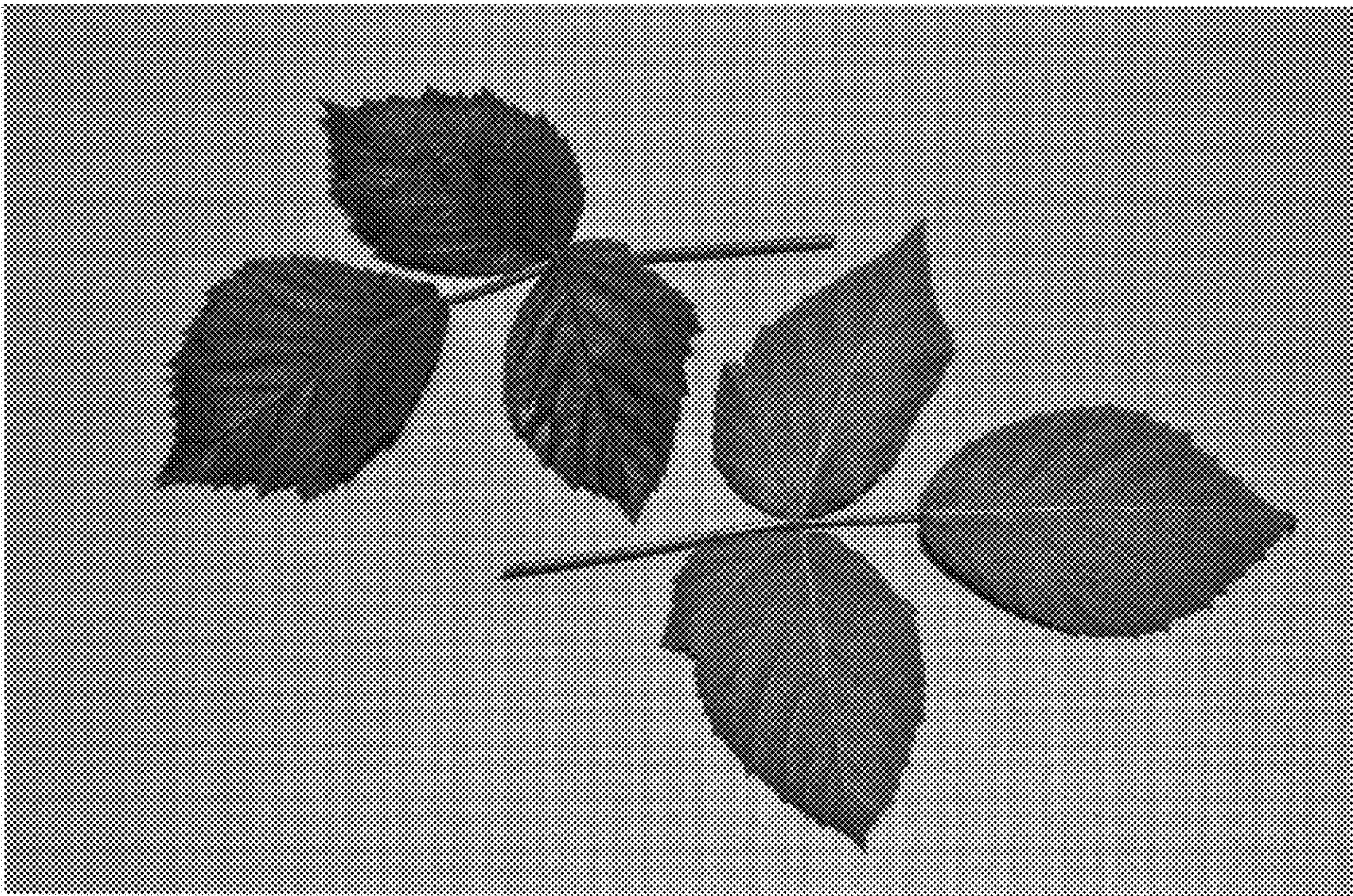


FIG. 3