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Larsen

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(54) **OSTEOSPERMUM PLANT NAMED**
'SUNOST1403'

(50) Latin Name: *Osteospermum ecklonis*
Varietal Denomination: **Sunost1403**

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patent is extended or adjusted under 35
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A01H 5/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
USPC **Plt./360**

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
USPC **Plt./360**
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

PUBLICATIONS

PLUTO Plant Variety Database Dec. 10, 2015 p. 1.*

* cited by examiner

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Osteospermum* plant named
'Sunost1403', characterized by its compact, upright, out-
wardly spreading and mounding plant habit; freely branching
growth habit; freely flowering habit; large daisy-type inflo-
rescences with purple violet and violet blue-colored ray flo-
rets; and good garden performance.

2 Drawing Sheets

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Botanical designation: *Osteospermum ecklonis*.
Cultivar denomination: 'SUNOST1403'.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of *Osteospermum* plant, botanically known as *Osteospermum*
ecklonis and hereinafter referred to by the name
'Sunost1403'.

The new *Osteospermum* plant is a product of a planned
breeding program conducted by the Inventor in Odense, Den-
mark. The objective of the program is to create and develop
new *Osteospermum* plants with compact and uniformly
mounded plant habit, freely flowering habit and attractive ray
and disc floret coloration.

The new *Osteospermum* plant originated from a cross-
pollination by the Inventor in May, 2011 of a proprietary
selection of *Osteospermum ecklonis* identified as code num-
ber 09.20.003, not patented, as the female, or seed, parent
with *Osteospermum ecklonis* 'Sunost1101', disclosed in U.S.
Plant Pat. No. 24,162, as the male, or pollen, parent. The new
Osteospermum plant was discovered and selected by the
Inventor as a single flowering plant within the progeny of the
stated cross-pollination in a controlled greenhouse environ-
ment in Odense, Denmark in June, 2012.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Osteospermum* plant by
terminal cuttings in a controlled greenhouse environment in
Odense, Denmark since September, 2012 has shown that the
unique features of this new *Osteospermum* plant are stable
and reproduced true to type in successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Plants of the new *Osteospermum* have not been observed
under all possible combinations of environmental conditions

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and cultural practices. The phenotype may vary somewhat
with variations in environmental conditions such as tempera-
ture 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 'Sunost1403'.
These characteristics in combination distinguish
'Sunost1403' as a new and distinct *Osteospermum* plant:

1. Compact, upright, outwardly spreading and mounding
plant habit.
2. Freely branching growth habit.
3. Freely flowering habit.
4. Large daisy-type inflorescences with purple violet and
violet blue-colored ray florets.
5. Good garden performance.

Plants of the new *Osteospermum* differ primarily from
plants of the female parent selection in the following charac-
teristics:

1. Plants of the new *Osteospermum* are more compact than
plants of the female parent selection.
2. Plants of the new *Osteospermum* and the female parent
selection differ in ray floret color as plants of the female
parent selection have pale purple-colored ray florets.

Plants of the new *Osteospermum* differ primarily from
plants of the male parent, 'Sunost1101', in the following
characteristics:

1. Leaves of plants of the new *Osteospermum* are more
undulate than leaves of plants of 'Sunost1101'.
2. Plants of the new *Osteospermum* and 'Sunost1101' dif-
fer in ray floret color as plants of 'Sunost1101' have
purple-colored ray florets.

Plants of the new *Osteospermum* can be compared to plants
of the *Osteospermum ecklonis* 'Sunny Evita', disclosed in
U.S. Plant Pat. No. 16,667. In side-by-side comparisons con-

ducted in Odense, Denmark, plants of the new *Osteospermum* differed from plants of 'Sunny Evita' in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Osteospermum* had smaller and glossier leaves than plants of 'Sunny Evita'.
2. Plants of the new *Osteospermum* and 'Sunny Evita' differed in ray floret color as plants of 'Sunny Evita' had light purple-colored ray florets.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying photographs illustrate the overall appearance of the new *Osteospermum* 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 *Osteospermum* plant.

The photograph on the first sheet comprises a side perspective view of a typical flowering plant of 'Sunost1403' grown in a container.

The photograph on the second sheet is a close-up view of a typical inflorescence of 'Sunost1403'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The aforementioned photographs, following observations and measurements describe plants grown during the winter in 11-cm containers in a glass-covered greenhouse in Odense, Denmark and under cultural practices typical of commercial *Osteospermum* production. During the production of the plants, day temperatures ranged from 14° C. to 20° C. and night temperatures averaged 14° C. Plants were pinched one time and were 14 weeks old when the photographs and description were taken. 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.

Botanical classification: *Osteospermum ecklonis* 'Sunost1403'.

Parentage:

Female, or seed, parent.—Proprietary selection of *Osteospermum ecklonis* identified as code number 09.20.003, not patented.

Male, or pollen, parent.—*Osteospermum ecklonis* 'Sunost1101', disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 24,162.

Propagation:

Type.—Terminal vegetative cuttings.

Time to initiate roots, summer.—About twelve days at temperatures about 18° C.

Time to initiate roots, winter.—About 14 days at temperatures about 18° C. to 20° C.

Time to produce a rooted cutting, summer.—About 20 days at temperatures about 18° C. to 20° C.

Time to produce a rooted cutting, winter.—About 28 days at temperatures about 18° C.

Root description.—Medium in thickness, fibrous; white in color.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching; medium density.

Plant description:

Plant and growth habit.—Compact, upright, outwardly spreading and mounding plant habit; inflorescences positioned above and beyond the foliar plane on strong peduncles; moderately vigorous growth habit.

Plant height.—About 14.3 cm.

Plant diameter.—About 22 cm.

Lateral branches.—Quantity per plant: Freely branching habit with about five primary lateral branches per plant; pinching enhances branching potential. Length: About 6.9 cm. Diameter: About 5 mm. Internode length: About 7 mm. Strength: Strong. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: Close to 144B to 144C.

Leaf description.—Arrangement: Alternate, simple; sessile. Length: About 6.9 cm. Width: About 3.4 cm. Shape: Obovate to narrowly obovate. Apex: Rounded. Base: Long attenuate. Margin: Irregularly and coarsely crenate. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Sparsely to moderately glandular pubescence; rough. Venation pattern: Pinnate, arcuate. Color: Developing leaves, upper surface: Close to 137A. Developing leaves, lower surface: Close to 137C. Fully expanded leaves, upper surface: Slightly darker than between N137A and 147A; venation, close to 144A. Fully expanded leaves, lower surface: Close to between 146A to 147B; venation, close to 144A to 144B.

Inflorescence description:

Appearance.—Daisy-type inflorescence form with oblanceolate-shaped ray florets; inflorescences terminal and axillary and positioned above and beyond the foliar plane on strong peduncles; disc and ray florets developing acropetally on a capitulum; inflorescences face mostly upright to slightly outwardly.

Flowering habit.—Freely flowering habit with about 40 inflorescences developing per plant.

Fragrance.—None detected.

Flowering response.—In Denmark, plants of the new *Osteospermum* flower continuously from spring to late summer; early flowering habit, plants begin flowering about six to eight weeks after pinching.

Inflorescence longevity.—Inflorescences of plants of the new *Osteospermum* last about two to three weeks on the plant; inflorescences not persistent.

Inflorescence buds.—Height: About 1.4 cm. Diameter: About 1.1 cm. Shape: Ovate. Color: Close to 137A to 137C; towards the apex, close to 150B.

Inflorescence size.—Diameter: About 5.7 cm. Depth (height): About 2.2 cm. Disc diameter: About 1.2 cm. Receptacle diameter: About 3 mm. Receptacle height: About 2 mm.

Ray florets.—Length: About 2.9 cm. Width: About 7.5 mm. Shape: Oblanceolate; slightly reflexing. Apex: Acute. Base: Attenuate. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper surface: Smooth, glabrous; slightly velvety. Texture, lower surface: Mostly smooth, glabrous; towards the base, pubescent. Number of ray florets per inflorescence: About 22 arranged in two whorls. Color: When opening, upper surface: Close to N82B; towards the base, close to 86D. When opening, lower surface: Close to 145D; towards the base, close to 122B. Fully opened, upper surface: Close to N81B; towards the base, close to 84A; main color becoming closer to N81C and towards the base, closer to 91A, with development. Fully opened, lower surface: Close to 145D; towards the base, close to 115D.

Disc florets.—Shape: Tubular; apex dentate, five-pointed. Length: About 8 mm. Diameter, apex: About 3.5 mm. Diameter, base: About 1 mm. Number of disc florets per inflorescence: About 80. Color, immature: Apex: Close to 102D. Mid-section: Close to N77C.

Base: Close to 157D. Color, mature: Apex: Close to 97B to 97C. Mid-section: Close to N82D. Base: Close to 157D.

Phyllaries.—Quantity per inflorescence: About 24 arranged in two whorls. Length: About 1.1 cm. Width: 5
About 2 mm. Shape: Lanceolate. Apex: Narrowly acute. Base: Cuneate. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper surface: Smooth, glabrous. Texture, lower surface: Sparsely pubescent. Color, upper surface: Close to 138B; margins, close to 147B. Color, lower surface: 10
Close to 137A; margins, close to 138A.

Peduncles.—Length, terminal peduncle: About 5 cm. Length, fourth peduncle: About 3.1 cm. Diameter: About 2 mm. Strength: Strong. Aspect, terminal peduncles: Mostly upright. Aspect, axillary 15
peduncles: About 27.5° from stem axis. Texture: Moderately pubescent. Color: Close to 143B.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium: Present on disc florets only. Filament length: About 2 mm. Anther shape: Lanceolate. Anther length: About 3 mm. 20

Anther color: Close to 203B. Pollen amount: Abundant. Pollen color: Close to 23A. Gynoecium: Present on both ray and disc florets. Pistil length: About 4 mm. Stigma shape: Bi-parted. Stigma color: Close to N186B. Style length: About 3.5 mm. Style color: Close to NN155D. Ovary color: Close to 145B.

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

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

Garden performance: Plants of the new *Osteospermum* have been observed to have good garden performance and to tolerate rain, wind, high temperatures about 40° C. and to be hardy to USDA Hardiness Zone 9.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct *Osteospermum* plant named 'Sunost1403' as illustrated and described.

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