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(12) **United States Plant Patent**
Li

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(54) **VERBENA PLANT NAMED ‘KLEVP15498’**

(50) Latin Name: *Verbena* sp.
Varietal Denomination: **KLEVP15498**

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(52) **U.S. Cl.**
USPC **Plt./308**

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new *Verbena* plant particularly distinguished by dark blue-violet flowers with white eyes, early flowering, and good resistance to powdery mildew, is disclosed.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Genus and species: *Verbena* sp.
Variety denomination: ‘KLEVP15498’.

BACKGROUND OF THE NEW PLANT

The present invention comprises a new and distinct variety of *Verbena*, botanically known as *Verbena* sp., and hereinafter referred to by the variety name ‘KLEVP15498’. ‘KLEVP15498’ originated from a cross-pollination conducted in September 2010 in Cobbitty, New South Wales, Australia between the proprietary female *Verbena* variety ‘VC11ABV’ (unpatented), and the proprietary male *Verbena* variety ‘VC11 0126’ (unpatented).

The seeds from the cross were sown and plants were grown for evaluation, where an individual plant designated ‘KLEVP15498’ was selected from the group of plants in Cobbitty, New South Wales, Australia in April 2011.

In April 2011, ‘KLEVP15498’ was first vegetatively propagated by vegetative cuttings in Cobbitty, NSW, Australia. ‘KLEVP15498’ was found to reproduce true to type in successive generations of asexual propagation via vegetative cuttings.

SUMMARY

The following are the most outstanding and distinguishing characteristics of this new variety when grown under normal horticultural practices in Cobbitty, New South Wales, Australia.

1. Dark blue-violet flowers with white eyes;
2. Early flowering; and
3. Good resistance to powdery mildew.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH

This new *Verbena* plant is illustrated by the accompanying photograph which shows the plant’s overall plant habit including form, foliage, and flowers. The photograph is of a three-month old plant grown in a greenhouse in Stuttgart,

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Germany in May 2013. The colors shown are as true as can be reasonably obtained by conventional photographic procedures.

DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW VARIETY

The following detailed descriptions set forth the distinctive characteristics of ‘KLEVP15498’. The data which define these characteristics were collected from asexual reproductions carried out in Cobbitty, New South Wales, Australia. Data was collected on three-month-old plants grown in a greenhouse in Cobbitty, New South Wales, Australia in February 2015 in Cobbitty, New South Wales, Australia. Color references are to The R.H.S. Colour Chart of The Royal Horticultural Society of London (R.H.S.) 2005.

Classification:

Family.—Verbenaceae.

Botanical.—*Verbena* sp.

Common.—*Verbena*.

Designation.—‘KLEVP15498’.

Parentage:

Female parent.—The proprietary female *verbena* variety ‘VC11ABV’ (unpatented).

Male parent.—The proprietary male *verbena* variety ‘VC11 0126’ (unpatented).

Plant:

Growth and branching habit.—Semi-upright.

Height (from top of soil).—30.0 cm.

Width (horizontal plant diameter).—30.0 cm.

Time to produce a finished flowering plant.—Approximately 8 weeks.

Time to initiate and develop roots.—3 weeks.

Root description.—White.

Stems:

Number of branches per plant.—More than 25.

Growth habit.—Semi-upright.

Length.—20.0 cm.

Diameter.—1.0 cm.

Internode length.—Approximately 2.0 cm.

Color.—RHS 130D.

- Anthocyanin*.—Absent.
Texture and appearance.—Pubescence, round.
- Leaves:
- Arrangement*.—Opposite.
Immature and mature leaf color.—Upper surface: RHS 141A. Lower surface: RHS 141C. 5
Length.—2.5 cm.
Width.—1.5 cm.
Shape.—Lanceolate.
Apex.—Acute. 10
Base.—Obtuse.
Margin.—Crenate.
Texture.—Upper surface: Leathery. Lower surface: Rugose.
Venation type.—Pinnate. 15
Venation color (both upper and lower surfaces).—RHS 141D.
Petioles.—Length: 0.4 cm. Diameter: 0.1 cm. Color: RHS 141D. Texture: Leathery.
- Flower buds: 20
Shape.—Tall, cylindrical.
Length.—0.5 cm.
Diameter.—0.1 cm.
Color (at tight bud).—RHS 93A.
- Inflorescence: 25
Blooming habit (flowering season).—Continuously.
Lastingness of individual blooms on the plant.—2 weeks.
Fragrance.—Absent.
Inflorescence type.—Umbel.
Length of inflorescence.—6.0 cm.
Diameter of inflorescence.—6.0 cm.
Number of florets per inflorescence.—More than 15.
Peduncle.—Color: RHS 141A. Length: 1.0 cm. Diameter: 0.1 cm.
- Florets:
Length.—2.0 cm.
Diameter.—4.0 cm.
Texture.—Glossy.
Form.—Single. 40
Length.—1.0 cm.
Diameter.—3.0 cm.
Color.—Immature: Upper surface: RHS 89A. Lower surface: RHS 94B. Mature: Upper surface: RHS 93B. Lower surface: RHS 94C. 45
Corolla tube length.—1.2 cm.
Corolla tube color.—RHS 56C.
Petals.—Length of lobe: 2.0 cm. Diameter of lobe: 2.0 cm. Lobe shape: Round. Apex: Acute. Base: Obtuse. Margin: Entire. Texture (both upper and lower surfaces): Glossy, satiny. 50
Pedicels.—Not visible.
- Sepals:
Shape.—Lanceolate.
Apex.—Acute. 55

- Base*.—Obtuse.
Margin.—Entire.
Length.—2.0 cm.
Diameter.—0.5 cm.
Color.—RHS 141C.
Texture (both upper and lower surfaces).—Hairy, dull.
- Reproductive organs:
Stamens.—Present. Quantity: 4. Color: RHS 139D. Filament length: 0.6 cm. Filament diameter: Less than 0.1 cm. Anther: Shape: Elliptic. Color: RHS 141D. Length: 0.8 cm. Diameter: 0.2 cm. Pollen amount: Sparse.
Pistils.—Number: 1. Length: 1.0 cm. Diameter: 0.1 cm. Stigma: Color: RHS 141D. Appearance: Ovate. Length: 0.1 cm. Diameter: 0.1 cm. Style: Color: RHS 141D. Length: 0.9 cm. Diameter: 0.1 cm. Appearance: Long.
- Fruit and seed set: None observed.
Disease and pest/insect resistance: Good resistance to powdery mildew.

COMPARISON WITH PARENTAL LINES AND KNOWN VARIETY

- 25 ‘KLEVP15498’ is distinguished from its parents as described in Table 1.

TABLE 1

Comparison with Parental Lines			
Characteristic	Variety ‘KLEVP15498’	Female parent ‘VC11ABV’	Male parent ‘VC11 0126’
Flower color	Dark blue-violet with eyes	Violet	Purple
35 Earliness to flower	Early	Medium	Medium

- 40 ‘KLEVP15498’ is most similar to the commercial *verbena* Empress Imperial Blue (patent status unknown). Differences between the varieties are described in Table 2.

TABLE 2

Comparison with Similar Variety		
Characteristic	Variety ‘KLEVP15498’	Commercial line Empress Imperial Line
Flower color	Dark blue-violet with eyes	Solid purple
Resistance to powdery mildew	Good resistance	Less resistance than ‘KLEVP15498’

I claim:

1. A new and distinct variety of *Verbena* plant designated ‘KLEVP15498’ as illustrated and described herein.

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