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(12) **United States Plant Patent**
van der Walt

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(54) **TULBAGHIA PLANT NAMED ‘ASHANTI’**

(50) Latin Name: *Tulbaghia* hybrid
Varietal Denomination: **Ashanti**

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(52) **U.S. Cl.**
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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 cultivar of *Tulbaghia* plant named ‘Ashanti’, characterized by its light pink-colored flowers, medium green-colored foliage, and moderately vigorous, upright-mounding growth habit, is disclosed.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Latin name of genus and species of plant claimed: *Tulbaghia* hybrid.
Variety denomination: ‘Ashanti’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of *Tulbaghia* plant botanically known as *Tulbaghia* hybrid and hereinafter referred to by the cultivar name ‘Ashanti’.

The new cultivar originated in a controlled breeding program in Pretoria, South Africa during the summer of 1999. The objective of the breeding program was the development of *Tulbaghia* cultivars that have abundant flowers with attractive coloration and thinner foliage.

The new interspecific *Tulbaghia* cultivar is the result of cross-pollination. The female (seed) parent of the new cultivar is a *Tulbaghia violacea* breeding selection, not coded, not patented, characterized by its dark purple-colored flowers, medium green to blue-green colored foliage, and vigorous, upright-mounding growth habit. The male (pollen) parent of the new cultivar is a *Tulbaghia cominsii* breeding selection, not coded, not patented, characterized by its light pink-colored flowers, medium green to blue-green colored foliage, and moderately vigorous, upright-mounding growth habit. The new cultivar was discovered and selected as a single flowering plant within the progeny of the above stated cross-pollination during the summer of 2001 in a controlled environment in Pretoria, South Africa.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by division since the summer of 2002 in Pretoria, South Africa and Valley Center, Calif. has demonstrated that the new cultivar reproduces true to type with all of the characteristics, as herein described, firmly fixed and retained through successive generations of such asexual propagation.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The following characteristics of the new cultivar have been repeatedly observed and can be used to distinguish ‘Ashanti’ as a new and distinct cultivar of *Tulbaghia* plant:

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1. Light pink-colored flowers;
2. Medium green-colored foliage; and
3. Moderately vigorous, upright-mounding growth habit.

Plants of the new cultivar differ from plants of the female parent primarily in flower color, and growth vigor. Plants of the new cultivar differ from plants of the male parent primarily in having a darker perianth tube color and in not having a fragrant inflorescence. In addition, the new cultivar has thinner leaves than the female parent and broader leaves than the male parent.

Of the many commercially available *Tulbaghia* cultivars, the most similar in comparison to the new cultivar is ‘Lilian’, not patented. However, in comparison, plants of the new cultivar differ from plants of ‘Lilian’ in at least the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new cultivar have a lighter flower color than plants of ‘Lilian’; and
2. Plants of the new cultivar have a different corona color than plants of ‘Lilian’.

Tulbaghia plant ‘Hinetul1’, U.S. Plant Pat. No. 25,293 was not found to be commercially available; however, based on plant patent data plants of the new cultivar differ from plants of ‘Hinetul1’ in at least the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new cultivar have a flower color different from plants of ‘Hinetul1’; and
2. Plants of the new cultivar have a leaf color different from plants of ‘Hinetul1’.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying photographs show, as nearly true as it is reasonably possible to make the same in color illustrations of this type, typical flower and foliage characteristics of the new cultivar. Colors in the photographs may differ slightly from the color values cited in the detailed description, which accurately describes the colors of ‘Ashanti’. The plants were grown in one gallon containers for 10 months in a poly-greenhouse in Guadalupe, Calif.

FIG. 1 illustrates a side view of the overall growth and flowering habit of ‘Ashanti’.

FIG. 2 illustrates a close-up view of an individual umbel of 'Ashanti'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The new cultivar has not been observed under all possible environmental conditions to date. Accordingly, it is possible that the phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in the environment, such as temperature, light intensity, and day length, without, however, any variance in genotype.

The chart used in the identification of colors described herein is The R.H.S. Colour Chart of The Royal Horticultural Society, London, England, 2007 edition, except where general color terms of ordinary significance are used. The color values were determined in March 2015 under natural light conditions in West Chicago, Ill.

The following descriptions and measurements describe plants produced by division of stock plants and grown in a poly-covered greenhouse without supplemental heating or cooling. Temperatures for this period ranged from an average high of 75° F. (24° C.) to an average low of 52° F. (11° C.). The plants were grown in Guadalupe, Calif. in one gallon containers for approximately 10 months utilizing a soilless growth medium. Measurements and numerical values represent averages of typical plants.

Botanical classification: *Tulbaghia* hybrid cultivar Ashanti.
Parentage:

Female parent.—A *Tulbaghia violacea* breeding selection, not coded, not patented.

Male parent.—A *Tulbaghia cominsii* breeding selection, not coded, not patented.

Propagation:

Type.—Divisions.

Root description.—Corm-like rhizome with thick roots white to light brown in color.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching.

Plant description:

Commercial crop time.—Approximately 52 to 60 weeks from a division to finish in a one-gallon container.

Cold hardiness.—To USDA Zone 7.

Growth habit and general appearance.—Moderately vigorous, upright-mounding, clumps of arching leaves and flowering stalks.

Size.—Height from soil level to top of plant plane: Approximately 46.0 cm. Height from soil level to top of foliage: Approximately 28.0 cm. Width: Approximately 43.0 cm.

Branching habit.—No branching, basal rosettes of leaves. Number of clumps per pot: Approximately 2. Number of rosettes per clump: Approximately 9.

Foliage description:

General description.—Quantity of leaves per rosette: Approximately 8. Fragrance: Strong garlic-scented when leaves bruised. Form: Simple. Arrangement: 2-ranked.

Leaves.—Aspect: Emerging leaves erect, then cascade. Shape: Linear. Margin: Entire. Apex: Broadly acute. Base: Sessile, sheathed. Venation pattern: Parallel. Length of mature leaf: Approximately 28.0 cm. Width of mature leaf: Approximately 4.0 mm. Texture of upper and lower surfaces: Glabrous. Color of upper surface of young and mature foliage: 137B with 144D at base, venation indistinguishable. Color

of lower surface of young and mature foliage: 137B to 137C with 144D at base, venation indistinguishable.

Flowering description:

Flowering habit.—'Ashanti' is freely flowering under outdoor growing conditions with substantially continuous blooming from spring through autumn.

Lastingness of individual umbel on the plant.—Approximately 2 to 3 weeks.

Inflorescence description:

General description.—Type: Umbel, semi-spherical. Positioned above foliage. Quantity of fully open umbels per plant: Approximately 1. Quantity of developing umbels per plant: Approximately 3. Fragrance: None detected. Length or height: Approximately 5.0 cm. Width: Approximately 6.5 cm. Quantity of fully open flowers per inflorescence: Approximately 8.

Scape.—Strength: Strong. Shape in cross-section: Round, slightly flattened. Aspect: Erect to 45° angle. Length: Approximately 45.0 cm. Diameter: Approximately 4.0 mm. Texture: Glabrous, glaucous. Color: Closest to 146A with 144A.

Flower description:

General description.—Type: Single, apetalous. Shape: Salverform. Diameter: Approximately 3.0 cm. Depth: Approximately 2.3 cm.

Bud.—Rate of opening: Generally takes 3 to 4 days for bud to progress from first color to fully open flower.

Bud just before opening.—Shape: Obovate. Length: Approximately 1.1 cm. Width: Approximately 3.0 mm. Texture: Glabrous, glaucous. Color: N80D.

Tepals.—Quantity: 6 lobed in 2 slightly imbricate whorls. Shape: Narrowly ovate. Appearance: Dull. Margin: Entire. Apex: Acute. Base: Fused. Length of outer tepals: Approximately 1.5 cm. Width of outer tepals: Approximately 5.0 mm. Length of inner tepals: Approximately 1.3 cm. Width of inner tepals: Approximately 6.0 mm. Texture of upper and lower surfaces: Glabrous. Color of upper surface when first open: NN155D with an overlay and central stripe of N80D. Color of lower surface when first open: NN155D with a heavy overlay and central stripe of N80D. Color of upper surface when fully open: NN155D with a faint overlay and central stripe of N80D. Color of lower surface when fully open: NN155D with an overlay and central stripe of N80D.

Corona.—Quantity: 3 distinct scales located opposite inner lobes. Margin: Entire. Apex: Notched. Base: Fused. Length: Approximately 4.0 mm. Width at base (widest point): Approximately 2.0 mm. Texture of upper and lower surfaces: Glabrous. Color of upper and lower surfaces: NN155D with a heavy overlay of N80C.

Perianth tube.—Length: Approximately 1.3 cm. Width: Approximately 3.0 mm. Texture: Glabrous. Color: N80D.

Pedice.—Strength: Strong. Appearance: Subtended by small membranous bract. Aspect: Acute angle to horizontal. Length: Approximately 1.4 cm. Diameter: Less than 1.0 mm. Texture: Glabrous, glaucous. Color: N137A spotted with 187B.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium: Quantity: 6 per flower, filaments adnate to perianth tube, anthers in 2 groups, upper group top of anther positioned 1.0

mm from tube opening and lower group top of anther positioned 4.0 mm from tube opening. Anther shape: Oblong. Anther length: Approximately 2.0 mm. Anther color: 2B. Pollen amount: Abundant. Pollen color: 2A. Gynoecium: Pistil quantity: 1 per flower. Pistil length: Approximately 5.0 mm. Stigma shape: Capitata, papillate. Stigma length: Approximately 1.0 mm. Stigma color: Colorless, translucent. Style length: Approximately 1.0 mm. Style color: Color-

less, opaque with a faint tint of N80D. Ovary length: Approximately 3.0 mm. Ovary color: 144B.
Seed and fruit production: Neither seed nor fruit production has been observed.
Disease and pest resistance: Resistance to pathogens and pests common to *Tulbaghia* has not been observed.
What is claimed is:
1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Tulbaghia* plant named 'Ashanti', substantially as herein illustrated and described.

* * * * *



FIG. 1

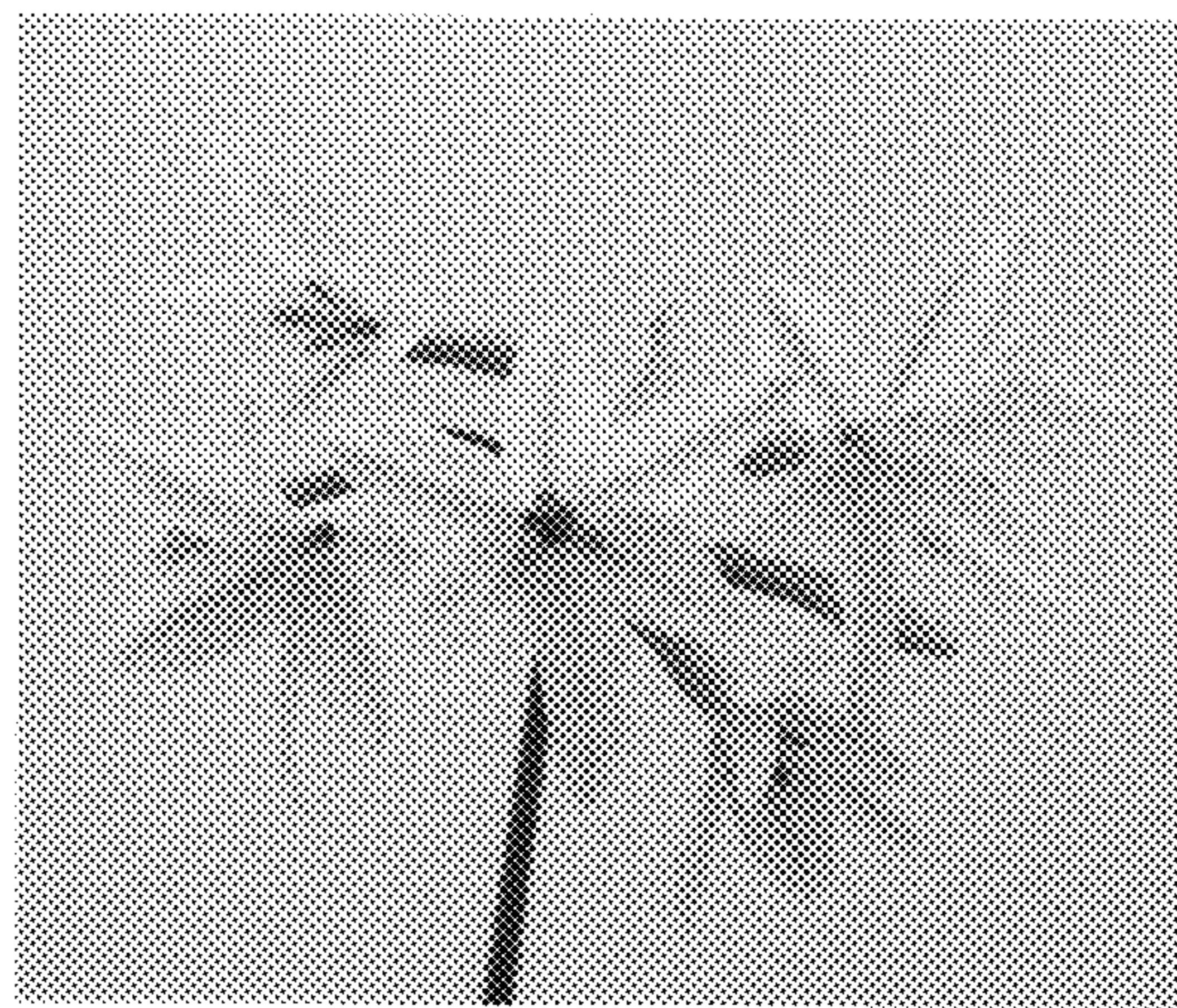


FIG. 2