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Van Swieten

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- (54) **PHALAEENOPSIS ORCHID PLANT NAMED 'PHALIFSIB'**
- (50) Latin Name: *Phalaenopsis* hybrid
Varietal Denomination: **PHALIFSIB**
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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 0 days.
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A01H 5/02 (2006.01)
- (52) **U.S. Cl.**
USPC **Plt./311**
- (58) **Field of Classification Search**
USPC **Plt./311**
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

PUBLICATIONS

PLUTO Plant Variety Database Sep. 10, 2016. p. 1.*
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct variety of *Phalaenopsis* plant named 'PHALIFSIB', particularly characterized by having white flecked flowers with a small light purple center with the intensity of the flecks depending on the temperature, 1 to 2 peduncles, an inflorescence that is long and sturdy, leaves that are oblong, and is propagated by meristem tissue culture is disclosed.

3 Drawing Sheets

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Genus and species: *Phalaenopsis* hybrid.
Variety denomination: 'PHALIFSIB'.

BACKGROUND OF THE NEW PLANT

The present invention comprises a new and distinct cultivar of *Phalaenopsis* plant, botanically known as *Phalaenopsis* of the Orchidaceae family, and hereinafter referred to by the cultivar name 'PHALIFSIB'.

Phalaenopsis comprises a genus of about 60 species of herbaceous perennials many of which, or the hybrids thereof, are suitable for cultivar in the home or greenhouse. *Phalaenopsis* is predominantly epiphytic or rock dwelling, and is native to tropical Asia, the Malay Archipelago, and Oceania. The species typically has 2-ranked, fleshy, oblong or elliptic leaves affixed to a short central stem (monopodial growth), which vary in size from 12 to 20 cm to over 60 cm. The leaves may be entirely green or mottled with silver grey.

Phalaenopsis orchids, often referred to as 'Moth Orchids' in the horticultural trade, are frequently used to furnish cut flowers for the florist trade or sold as flowering potted-plants for home or interiorscape.

Phalaenopsis produces upright or pendent lateral racemes, often with many showy flowers which open in succession beginning with the lowermost. The flowers possess three sepals and three petals; the lateral ones being alike. The lowermost petals, called the labellum, are three-lobed and are often more brightly-colored than the other flower segments. Flower colors include various shades of pink, white, yellow, and red-brown.

Phalaenopsis orchids are typically propagated from seeds. Asexual propagation of *Phalaenopsis* is often done from off-shoots which arise from the lower bracts of the

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inflorescence. The resulting plants are detached from the mother plants and may be planted in a suitable substrate.

The new *Phalaenopsis* 'PHALIFSIB' is particularly characterized by its attractive and unique white flecked flowers with a small light purple center, economical propagation by tissue culture, rapid growth, and a plant dimension suitable for packaging and shipping to the market.

'PHALIFSIB' is a product of a planned breeding program conducted by the inventor in Bleiswijk, The Netherlands.

The new *Phalaenopsis* 'PHALIFSIB' originated from a cross made in September 2007 in Bleiswijk, The Netherlands. The female parent is a *Phalaenopsis* pot plant named '01-2156' (unpatented), while the male parent is a *Phalaenopsis* pot plant named '01-2146' (unpatented). A single plant was selected in September 2010 and has been asexually reproduced repeatedly by meristem tissue culture in Bleiswijk, The Netherlands over a 1.5-year period. The new variety has been found to retain its distinctive characteristics through successive asexual propagations.

Asexual reproduction of 'PHALIFSIB' by tissue culture was first performed in May 2013 in Bleiswijk, The Netherlands and has demonstrated that the new cultivar is firmly fixed and retained through successive generations of asexual reproduction.

Plant Breeder's Rights for this variety have been applied for in Europe on Sep. 29, 2014. 'PHALIFSIB' 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 Bleiswijk, The Netherlands.

- 1) White flecked flowers with a small light purple center (intensity of flecks depends on the temperature);
- 2) 1 to 2 peduncles;
- 3) Inflorescence is long and sturdy;
- 4) Shape of the leaf is oblong; and
- 5) Plants are propagated by meristem tissue culture.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

This new *Phalaenopsis* plant is illustrated by the accompanying photographs which show the overall plant habit including blooms and foliage of the plant; the colors shown are as true as can be reasonably obtained by conventional photographic procedures. The photographs are of a 50-week old plant grown in a greenhouse in Bleiswijk, The Netherlands in July 2015.

FIG. 1 shows the overall plant habit, including blooms and foliage of 'PHALIFSIB'.

FIG. 2 shows a close-up of a flower of 'PHALIFSIB'.

FIG. 3 shows a close-up of the leaves of 'PHALIFSIB'.

DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW VARIETY

The following detailed description sets forth the distinctive characteristics of 'PHALIFSIB'. The data which define these characteristics were collected from asexual reproductions carried out in Bleiswijk, The Netherlands. The plant history was taken on 50-week old plants which were planted from a nursery tray in 12 centimeter pots and grown in a greenhouse between 27° C. to 29° C. for 30 weeks, continued by a cooling period of 8 weeks between 18° C. to 20° C. and 12 weeks in a greenhouse of 21° C. Observations were made in July 2015. Color readings were taken under 4-6000 lux natural light in the greenhouse. Color references are primarily to The R.H.S. Colour Chart of The Royal Horticultural Society of London (R.H.S.) (1995).

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

Classification:

Family.—Orchidaceae.

Botanical.—*Phalaenopsis* hybrid.

Common name.—*Phalaenopsis*.

Variety name.—'PHALIFSIB'.

Parentage:

Female parent.—*Phalaenopsis* cultivar '01-2156' (unpatented).

Male parent.—*Phalaenopsis* cultivar '01-2146' (unpatented).

Propagation:

Type.—Meristem tissue culture.

Plant:

Crop time (time to produce a finished flowering plant).—48 to 50 weeks for a 12 cm pot.

Growth habit of peduncle.—Standard, green leaves, raceme to panicle.

Height (including pot, including inflorescence).—58.0 cm to 68.0 cm.

Width (measured from leaf tips).—37.0 cm to 39.0 cm.

Vigor.—Strong.

Roots:

Root description.—Grey-green colored roots with branching lateral roots having green-greyled-purple colored root tips.

Leaves:

Mature leaves.—Quantity per plant: 7 to 8 leaves are produced before flowering. Length (fully expanded): 18.0 cm to 22.0 cm. Width: 9.5 cm to 10.5 cm. Shape: Oblong. Base shape: Moderately to very elongated. Apex: Unequal obtuse. Leaf blade angle with the petiole (measured from the horizontal position): Between 20 degrees and 40 degrees. Leaf margin: Entire. Color: Upper surface: RHS 147A. Lower surface: RHS 146A. Texture: Rough. Thickness: 2.8 mm to 3.3 mm. Venation: Pattern: Parallel. Color of the midvein: Upper surface: RHS 147A. Lower surface: RHS 146A.

Peduncle:

Quantity per plant.—1 to 2.

Number of flowers per peduncle.—9 to 14.

Length.—56.0 cm to 61.0 cm.

Diameter.—6.7 mm to 6.9 mm.

Strength.—Strong.

Aspect.—Upright.

Texture.—Slightly rough.

Color.—Mix of brown (RHS 200B) and green (RHS 146B).

Internode length.—50.0 mm to 60.0 mm.

Callosities.—None.

Inflorescence description:

Appearance.—Upright to slightly pendant, raceme to panicle inflorescence with bilaterally symmetrical flowers that open in succession beginning with the lowermost flower.

Inflorescence size.—Height (from base to tip): 200.0 mm to 230.0 mm. Diameter: 4.2 mm to 4.5 mm.

Flowering time.—First flowers can be expected 10 to 11 months after planting in a 12 cm pot.

Flower.—Height: 96.0 mm to 101.0 mm. Diameter: 107.0 mm to 112.0 mm. Depth of lip: 25.0 mm to 27.0 mm.

Flower longevity.—On the plant: 7 to 9 weeks.

Fragrance.—Absent.

Flower bud.—Average size: Large. Length: 2.2 cm to 2.4 cm. Width: 1.9 cm to 2.1 cm. Shape: Egg shaped. Color: Green (RHS 145A) flecked (RHS 187A and 79A).

Petals.—Arrangement: Open/free. Shape: Semi-circular. Apex: Rounded and slightly emarginated symmetric. Margin: Slightly undulated. Length (from base to tip): 51.0 mm to 53.0 mm. Width: 63.0 mm to 66.0 mm. Color (when fully opened): Upper surface: Basic color: White (RHS 155C) flecked (smaller flecks are RHS 71A and larger spots are RHS 187B) and light purple at the base (RHS 78D). Over color: Absent. Lower surface: Basic color: White (RHS 155C) with diluted flecks (RHS 79A and 71A) and light purple fleck at the base (RHS 81D). Over color: Absent.

Dorsal sepal.—Shape: Broad elliptic. Apex: Emarginated symmetric. Margin: Entire. Length (from base to tip): 52.0 mm to 54.0 mm. Width: 40.0 mm to 42.0 mm. Color (when fully opened): Upper surface: Basic color: White (RHS 155C) flecked (smaller flecks are RHS 71A and larger spots are RHS 187B) and light purple at the base (RHS 78D). Over color: Absent. Lower surface: Basic color: White (RHS 155C) with diluted/blurry flecks (RHS 79A and 71A). Over color: Light purple (RHS 69B and 69C).

Lateral sepals.—Shape: Ovate. Apex: Slightly asymmetric obtuse. Margin: Entire. Length (from base to tip): 49.0 mm to 51.0 mm. Width: 30.0 mm to 32.0 mm. Color (when fully opened): Upper surface: Basic color: White (RHS 155C); most of the time 5
flecked (RHS 71A and 187B), presence and intensity of flecks depends on the temperature. Over color: Light green towards the center of the flower (RHS 145C). Lower surface: Basic color: White (RHS 155C) most of the time with diluted flecks (RHS 79A 10
and 71A) and few stripes at the base (RHS 78D); presence and intensity of flecks depends on the temperature. Over color: Light green towards the center of the flower (RHS 145C) and light purple (RHS 69B to 69C). 15

Labellum (lip).—Margin: Entire. Whiskers: Present. Length of whiskers: 16.0 mm to 18.0 mm. Color of whiskers: White (RHS 155C) with yellow tips (RHS 7A). Pubescence on the lip: Absent.

Lateral lobe.—Shape: Type V (as described in the 20
International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) Test Guidelines for *Phalaenopsis*); spatulate. Length: 21.0 mm to 23.0 mm. Width: 16.0 mm to 18.0 mm. Color: White (RHS 155C) with yellow-green edge on one side (RHS 9A 25
and 151B) and small greyed-purple at the base (RHS 183B and 1863C).

Apical lobe.—Shape: Trullate. Length: 22.0 mm to 24.0 mm. Width: 22.0 mm to 24.0 mm. Color: White (RHS 155C) and yellow-green towards the callus 30
(RHS 1B and 9A) and brown edge at the base (RHS 173A and 174A).

Callus.—Average size: Medium. Height: 0.5 cm to 0.7 cm. Length: 0.4 cm to 0.6 cm. Width: 0.4 cm to 0.6 cm. Color: Dark greyed-purple (RHS 187A) and 35
brown (RHS 200B) with white (RHS 155C) and yellow on the side (RHS 13A).

Reproductive organs:

Arrangement.—The stamens, style and stigmas are fused into a single, short structure called the column, 40
possessing one terminal anther with pollen grains

united into pollinia, which are covered by an anther cap. The stigma is located under the column behind the pollinia. The ovary is inferior with three carpels present.

Column.—Length: 9.0 mm to 11.0 mm. Diameter: 5.7 mm to 6.2 mm. Color: White (RHS 155C).

Pollinia.—Quantity: 2. Size: 1.1 mm to 1.3 mm. Color: Orange (RHS 24A).

Ovary.—Part of the pedicel with small ribs towards the column. Length: 7.0 mm to 9.0 mm. Diameter: 2.3 mm to 2.6 mm.

Pedicel.—Length: 39.0 mm to 41.0 mm. Diameter: 3.5 mm to 3.8 mm. Color: From the inflorescence greyed-purple (RHS 187A) and green (RHS 144B and 145C) to light purple (RHS 69B) towards the flower.

Disease, pest, and stress resistance: No specific resistance or susceptibility observed.

Temperature tolerance: Tolerant to a low temperature of 15° C. and a high temperature of about 30° C.

COMPARISON WITH PARENTAL AND COMMERCIAL VARIETIES

The original parent plants of 'PHALIFSIB' are no longer available; therefore, a meaningful comparison cannot be made.

'PHALIFSIB' differs from commercial variety 'PHALCUJOX' (unpatented) in that 'PHALIFSIB' has a larger flower than 'PHALCUJOX'. Additionally, 'PHALIFSIB' has an emarginated apex of the dorsal sepal and a white column, whereas 'PHALCUJOX' has an obtuse apex of the dorsal sepal and a red-purple column.

I claim:

1. A new and distinct variety of *Phalaenopsis* plant named 'PHALIFSIB', substantially as described and illustrated herein.

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FIG. 1

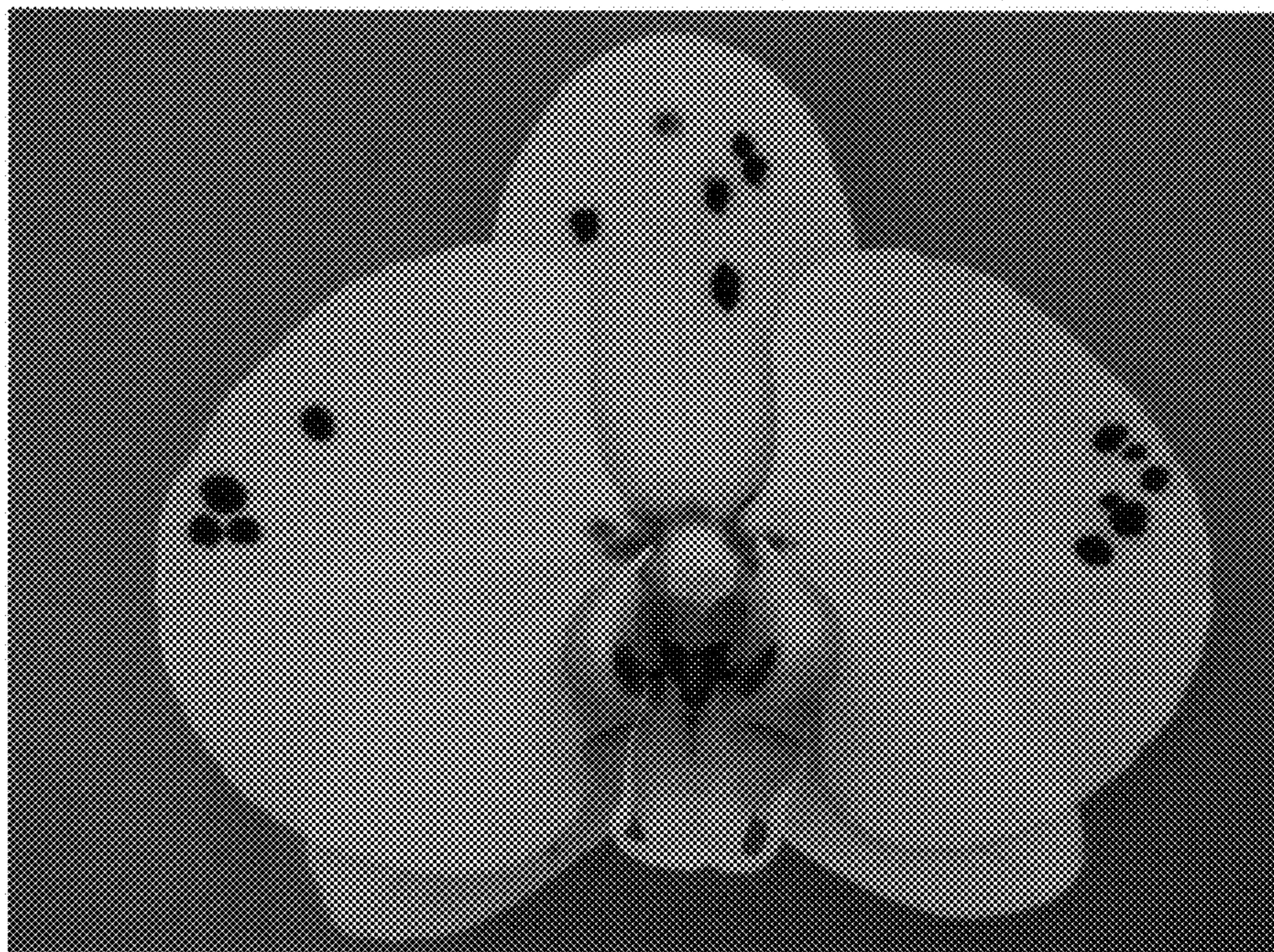


FIG. 2



FIG. 3