US00PP27510P3

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

(10) **Patent No.: US PP27,510 P3**
(45) **Date of Patent: Dec. 27, 2016**

(54) ***PETUNIA* PLANT NAMED 'SUNPETU 101'**

(50) Latin Name: ***Petunia×hybrida***
Varietal Denomination: **Sunpetu 101**

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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 73 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **14/121,578**

(22) Filed: **Sep. 19, 2014**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2015/0089702 P1 Mar. 26, 2015

Related U.S. Application Data

(60) Provisional application No. 61/960,556, filed on Sep. 20, 2013.

(51) **Int. Cl.**
A01H 5/02 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
USPC **Plt./356.13**
CPC ***A01H 5/02*** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
USPC Plt./356.13
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

Disclosed herein is a new and distinct variety of *Petunia* plant having vigorous and semi-trailing habit, abundant flowering, the whole bush remaining in bloom for a considerable period of time, and single, medium sized and vivid purple-white bicolored flowers.

2 Drawing Sheets

Botanical designation: *Petunia×hybrida.*
Cultivar denomination: 'Sunpetu 101'.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct variety of *Petunia* plant, which is hereinafter referred to as 'Sunpetu 101'.

A *Petunia* is a very popular plant that is used in flower bedding and potting in the summer season.

This purpose of this invention is to obtain a new *Petunia* cultivar with vigorous and semi-trailing habit, abundant flowering, the whole bush remaining in bloom for a considerable period of time, and single, medium sized and vivid purple-white bicolored flowers.

The new *Petunia* plant originated from cross-pollination of the female parent 'P23F1-8' and the male parent 'MP22-188-2'. The female parent 'P23F1-8' (unpatented) used in the crossing of 'Sunpetu 101' is a strain of the applicant's breeding lines (i.e., proprietary *Petunia* selection), having medium plant diameter, and the male parent 'MP22-188-2' (unpatented) used in the crossing of 'Sunpetu 101' is a strain of the applicant's breeding lines (i.e., proprietary *Petunia* selection), having purple petals. The cross-pollination was conducted in Sep. 10, 2010 at Yame-gun, Fukuoka, Japan.

In March 2011, the seedlings obtained by the crossing were planted in a field. In May 2011, some seedlings were selected in view of growth habit, flower size and color

thereof. Shortly thereafter stem tip culturing was carried out, and then the propagation was started.

In November 2012, the cultivation of the seedlings was repeated. The botanical characteristics of that plant were then examined, using similar varieties 'Daiichi-MP22-193-1' and 'Daiichi-MP22-21-2' for comparison. As a result, it was concluded that this *Petunia* plant is distinguishable from any other variety, whose existence is known, and is uniform and stable in its characteristics.

The new variety of *Petunia* plant was then named 'Sunpetu 101'.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

This new variety is unlike any *Petunia* commercially available as evidenced by the following unique combinations of characteristics.

1. Vigorous and semi-trailing habit.
2. Abundant flowering, the whole bush remaining in bloom for a considerable period of time.
3. Single, medium sized and vivid purple-white bicolored flowers.

The new variety 'Sunpetu 101' differs from the similar variety 'Daiichi-MP22-193-1', which was applied for Japanese plant variety protection (the application number: 27366; the application date: 2012 Sep. 3; the registration number 23231; the registration date: 2014 Mar. 10), in the following points.

1. The plant height of 'Sunpetu 101' is medium. That of 'Daiichi-MP22-193-1' is low.
2. The main color of surface of corolla lobe of 'Sunpetu 101' is vivid purple (RHS N81A) and white (RHS NN155C). That of 'MP22-193-1' is PURPLE-VIOLET (RHS N81).

The new variety 'Sunpetu 101' differs from the similar variety 'Daiichi-MP22-21-2', which was applied for Japanese plant variety protection (the application number: 26284; the application date: 2011 Sep. 8; the registration number 22221; the registration date: 2013 Jan. 28), in the following points.

1. The plant height of 'Sunpetu 101' is medium. That of 'Daiichi-MP22-21-2' is somewhat low.
2. The flower diameter of 'Sunpetu 101' is medium (about 4.8 cm). That of 'Daiichi-MP22-21-2' is somewhat small.
3. The main color of surface of corolla lobe of 'Sunpetu 101' is vivid purple (RHS N81A) and white (RHS NN155C). That of 'Daiichi-MP22-21-2' is RED-PURPLE (RHS N74).

This new variety of *Petunia* plant 'Sunpetu 101' was asexually reproduced by the use of cuttings in Higashiomi, Shiga, Japan, and homogeneity and stability thereof were confirmed. A cutting used to reproduce the new variety typically has one or more leaves and a stem. The instant plant retains its distinctive characteristics and produces true to type in successive generations.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The depicted plants had been reproduced by the use of cuttings and were photographed during October 2013 while growing outdoors in wall pots with about 24 cm of container size at an age of approximately 5 months.

FIG. **1** is a photograph of a typical plant of the new variety of *Petunia* plant 'Sunpetu 101' while growing in a pot.

FIG. **2** is a photograph of a close view of flowers of the new variety of *Petunia* plant 'Sunpetu 101'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

In October 2013, the cultivation of the seedlings was repeated at Higashiomi, Shiga, Japan. The average day temperature was about 23° C., and the average night temperature was about 13° C. The plants were grown under natural sunlight. The number of days to flowering (response time) was 2-3 weeks. The quality was maintained for about 150 days. The plants had temperature resistance to about −5° C. (the lowest temperature) and about 35° C. (the highest temperature). Further, the plants had good tolerance to pests and pathogens.

For the parentage information: The female parent 'P23F1-8' (unpatented) used in the crossing of 'Sunpetu 101' is a strain of the applicant's breeding lines (i.e., proprietary selection of *Petunia×hybrida*), having medium plant diameter, and the male parent 'MP22-188-2' (unpatented) used in the crossing of 'Sunpetu 101' is a strain of the applicant's breeding lines (i.e., proprietary selection of *Petunia×hybrida*), having purple petals.

For the propagation information: approximate soil and/or air temperature was around 15-20° C.; the new cultivar was propagated by cutting; number of days to initiate roots was about 7 days; number of days to produce a rooted young plant was about 21 days; free-root branching; root color was white; and root texture was fibrous.

The botanical characteristics of the new and distinct variety of *Petunia* plant named 'Sunpetu 101' at an age of approximately 5 months are shown in the following TABLE 1. In the following description, the color-coding is in accordance with the Horticultural Colour Chart of The Royal Horticultural Society, London, England (R.H.S. Colour Chart The 5th edition 2007).

TABLE 1

PLANT VARIETY DESCRIPTION

CHARACTERISTIC	APPLICATION VARIETY Sunpetu 101
ANNUAL, BIENNIAL or PERENNIAL?	Grown as annual
TYPE OF PLANT: i.e., TREE, SHRUB, SUBSHRUB, VINE, CUT FLOWER, POTTED PLANT	Potted plant
APPROPRIATE CONTAINERS +/or CROPPING SYSTEM	Ideal for pots, hanging baskets or planters, and is good for use as a ground cover.
GROWTH HABIT	Semi-trailing
PLANT HEIGHT	About 25.0, Medium cm
PLANT DIAMETER OR AREA OF SPREAD	About 60.0 cm
PLANT VIGOR	Vigorous
BRANCHING HABIT	Freely branching
BASAL BRANCHING?	Present
PINCHING REQUIRED?	Required
NUMBER OF LATERAL BRANCHES	Many
LATERAL BRANCH LENGTH	About 24.3 mm
LATERAL BRANCH DIAMETER	About 1.4 mm
INTERNODE LENGTH OF A STEM	About 17.3 mm
STEM ASPECT	Upright to outward
STEM COLOR (and bark color, if applicable)	Near 143B RHS
STEM PUBESCENCE?	Pubescent
OTHER PLANT/STEM CHARACTERISTICS	—
LEAF ARRANGEMENT	Alternate
COMPOUND OR SIMPLE?	Simple
QUANTITY OF LEAVES PER LATERAL BRANCH	Many
LEAF SHAPE	Elliptic
LEAF TIP	Acute
LEAF BASE	Cuneate
LEAF LENGTH	About 41.3 mm
LEAF WIDTH	About 14.8 mm
LEAF THICKNESS	About 0.3 mm
LEAF PUBESCENCE? WHICH SIDE?	Pubescent, both sides
LEAF MARGIN	Entire
VENATION PATTERN	Pinnate
LEAF COLOR, YOUNG, UPPER SIDE	Near 137B RHS
LEAF COLOR, YOUNG, UNDER SIDE	Near 137D RHS
LEAF COLOR, MATURE, UPPER SIDE	Near 137A RHS
LEAF COLOR, MATURE, UNDER SIDE	Near 137C RHS
VENATION COLOR, UPPER SIDE	Near 144C RHS 145A (Yellow Green
VENATION COLOR, UNDER SIDE	Near 144D RHS 145A (Yellow Green
PETIOLE LENGTH	About 3.3 mm
PETIOLE DIAMETER	About 1.8 mm
PETIOLE TEXTURE	Pubescent, dense, long
PETIOLE COLOR	Near 144C RHS
STIPULES, TENDRILS, THORNS, SPINES OR PRICKLES? IF SO, GIVE COLOR AND SIZE	—
OTHER FOLIAGE CHARACTERISTICS	—
FLOWER ARRANGEMENT	Borne in upper leaf axils
INFLORESCENCE TYPE OR FORM (if applicable)	Flower solitary
FLOWER TYPE or FORM	Single
FLOWERING HABIT	Continuously
QUANTITY OF FLOWERS PER LATERAL STEM	About 2 to 4

TABLE 1-continued

PLANT VARIETY DESCRIPTION

CHARACTERISTIC	APPLICATION VARIETY Sunpetu 101
QUANTITY OF FLOWERS PER PLANT	About 64
NATURAL FLOWERING SEASON	About Spring to late Autumn
TIME TO FLOWER OR RESPONSE TIME	About 2-3 weeks
FRAGRANCE	Absent
FLOWER BUD LENGTH	About 32.2 mm
FLOWER BUD DIAMETER	About 6.7 mm
FLOWER BUD SHAPE	Cylindrical with 5 lines, Tip: twisted
FLOWER BUD COLOR	Near 149D, Tip: RHS N82A-N82B
FLOWER ASPECT; i.e., UPRIGHT, OUTWARD, DROOPING, etc.	Upright to outward
FLOWER SHAPE	Salverform
FLOWER DIAMETER	About 47.5 mm
FLOWER DEPTH (HEIGHT)	About 40.7 mm
FLOWER LONGEVITY ON PLANT	About 7-10 days
PERSISTENT OR SELF-CLEANING?	Self-cleaning
PETAL TEXTURE, UPPER SURFACE	Smooth
PETAL TEXTURE, LOWER SURFACE	Smooth
TUBE TEXTURE,	Pubescent
PETAL ARRANGEMENT	Single whorl
PETAL NUMBER	5
PETALS FUSED?	Fused
PETAL SHAPE	Spatulate
PETAL MARGIN	Entire, weakly undulated
PETAL TIP	Cuspidate
PETAL BASE	Fused
PETAL LENGTH	About 20.3 mm
PETAL WIDTH	About 20.9 mm
PETAL COLOR, WHEN OPENING, UPPER SIDE	Near Bicolor, 86A and RHS NN155C
PETAL COLOR, WHEN OPENING, LOWER SIDE	Near Bicolor, N81B and RHS NN155C
PETAL COLOR, FULLY OPENED, UPPER SIDE	Near Bicolor, N81A and RHS NN155C
PETAL COLOR, FULLY OPENED, LOWER SIDE	Near Bicolor, 83C and RHS NN155C
PETAL COLOR, FADING TO	—
THROAT DIAMETER	About 9.7 mm
TUBE DIAMETER(PROXIMAL END)	About 2.6 mm
TUBE LENGTH	About 26.5 mm
THROAT COLOR(inside)	Near NN155A RHS 145B (Yellow Green)
TUBE COLOR(outside)	Near NN155A RHS
SEPAL ARRANGEMENT	Single whorl
NUMBER OF SEPALS	5
SEPAL SHAPE	Narrow elliptic
SEPAL MARGIN	Entire
SEPAL TIP	Obtuse
SEPAL BASE	Fused

TABLE 1-continued

PLANT VARIETY DESCRIPTION

CHARACTERISTIC	APPLICATION VARIETY Sunpetu 101
SEPAL LENGTH	About 15.9 mm
SEPAL WIDTH	About 2.4 mm
SEPAL COLOR, IMMATURE, UPPER SIDE	Near 137B RHS
SEPAL COLOR, IMMATURE, UNDER SIDE	Near 137D RHS
SEPAL COLOR, MATURE, UPPER SIDE	Near 137B RHS
SEPAL COLOR, MATURE, UNDER SIDE	Near 137D RHS
CALYX SHAPE	Tubular, star shape
CALYX LENGTH	About 11.7 mm
CALYX DIAMETER	About 21.8 mm
PEDUNCLE LENGTH	About 21.2 mm
PEDUNCLE DIAMETER	About 1.0 mm
PEDUNCLE ANGLE	Upright to outward
PEDUNCLE TEXTURE	Pubescent
PEDUNCLE COLOR	Near 144A RHS
STAMEN NUMBER	5
STAMEN LENGTH	About 16.2-21.1 mm
ANTHER SHAPE	Ellipsoidal
ANTHER SIZE	About 2.6 × 1.6 mm
ANTHER COLOR	Near 156D RHS
AMOUNT OF POLLEN	Moderate
POLLEN COLOR	Near 157A RHS
PISTIL NUMBER	1
PISTIL LENGTH	About 19.6 mm
STIGMA SHAPE	Transversely ellipsoidal
STIGMA COLOR	Near 90B RHS
STYLE COLOR	Near 144D RHS
OVARY COLOR	Near 144B RHS
OTHER FLOWER CHARACTERISTICS	—
QUANTITY OF SEEDS	Seed production has not been observed.
ROOT STRUCTURES such as BULBS, CORMS or RHIZOMES?	Fibrous root
LOW TEMPERATURE TOLERANCE	Good
HIGH TEMPERATURE TOLERANCE	Good
DISEASE RESISTANCE AND/OR SUSCEPTIBILITY	—
RESISTANCE OF PESTS AND/OR SUSCEPTIBILITY	—

This new variety of *Petunia* plant having the above botanical characteristics is suitable for flower bedding and potting, particularly in hanging pots or planters.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct variety of *Petunia* plant named 'Sunpetu 101', substantially as herein illustrated and described.

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