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(54) ***PETUNIA* PLANT NAMED 'SUNPETU 3881'**

(50) Latin Name: ***Petunia×hybrida***
Varietal Denomination: **Sunpetu 3881**

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A01H 5/02 (2006.01)

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(58) **Field of Classification Search**
USPC Plt./356.21
See application file for complete search history.

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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, small sized and vivid red purple colored flowers.

2 Drawing Sheets

Botanical designation: *Petunia×hybrida.*

Cultivar denomination: 'Sunpetu 3881'.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct variety of *Petunia* plant, which is hereinafter referred to as 'Sunpetu 3881'.

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, small sized and vivid red purple colored flowers.

The new *Petunia* plant originated from cross-pollination of the female parent 'Shiro2' and the male parent 'MS22-193-2'. The female parent 'Shiro2' (unpatented) used in the crossing of 'Sunpetu 3881' is a strain of the applicant's breeding lines (i.e., proprietary *Petunia* selection), having white petals, and the male parent 'MS22-193-2' (unpatented) used in the crossing of 'Sunpetu 3881' is a strain of the applicant's breeding lines (i.e., proprietary *Petunia*

selection), having medium flower diameter. 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 Bluette Purple 2' and 'MP22-21-2' (unpatented) 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 3881'.

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, small sized and vivid red purple colored flower.

The new variety 'Sunpetu 3881' differs from the similar variety 'Daiichi Bluette Purple 2', which is disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 22,236, in the following points.

1. The plant posture of 'Sunpetu 3881' is considerable trailing. That of 'Daiichi Bluette Purple 2' is trailing.
2. The stem length of 'Sunpetu 3881' is long. That of 'Daiichi Bluette Purple 2' is medium.

The new variety 'Sunpetu 3881' differs from the similar variety 'MP22-21-2' in the following points.

1. The flower diameter of 'Sunpetu 3881' is medium. That of 'MP22-21-2' is somewhat small.
2. The number of colors on surface of corolla lobe of 'Sunpetu 3881' is one. That of 'MP22-21-2' is two.

This new variety of *Petunia* plant 'Sunpetu 3881' 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 3881' while growing in a pot.

FIG. **2** is a photograph of a close view of flowers of the new variety of *Petunia* plant 'Sunpetu 3881'.

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 'Shiro2' (unpatented) used in the crossing of 'Sunpetu 3881' is a strain of the applicant's breeding lines (i.e., proprietary selection of *Petunia×hybrida*), having white petals, and the male parent 'MS22-193-2' (unpatented) used in the crossing of 'Sunpetu 3881' is a strain of the applicant's breeding lines (i.e., proprietary selection of *Petunia×hybrida*), having medium flower diameter.

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 3881' 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 3881
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 28.0 cm
PLANT DIAMETER OR AREA OF SPREAD	About 65.0 cm
PLANT VIGOR	Vigorous
BRANCHING HABIT	Freely branching
BASAL BRANCHING?	Present
PINCHING REQUIRED?	Required
NUMBER OF LATERAL BRANCHES	Many
LATERAL BRANCH LENGTH	About 25.5 mm
LATERAL BRANCH DIAMETER	About 2.1 mm
INTERNODE LENGTH OF A STEM	About 29.6 mm
STEM ASPECT	Upright to outward
STEM COLOR (and bark color, if applicable)	Near 143A RHS
STEM PUBESCENCE?	Pubescent
OTHER PLANT/STEM CHARACTERISTICS	
LEAF ARRANGEMENT	Alternate
COMPOUND OR SIMPLE?	Simple
QUANTITY OF LEAVES PER LATERAL BRANCH	Many
LEAF SHAPE	Ovate
LEAF TIP	Acute
LEAF BASE	Obtuse
LEAF LENGTH	About 36.4 mm
LEAF WIDTH	About 18.7 mm
LEAF THICKNESS	About 0.2 mm
LEAF TEXTURE	Smooth
LEAF PUBESCENCE? WHICH SIDE?	Pubescent, both sides
LEAF MARGIN	Entire
VENATION PATTERN	Pinnate
LEAF COLOR, YOUNG, UPPER SIDE	Near 138A RHS
LEAF COLOR, YOUNG, UNDER SIDE	Near 138B RHS
LEAF COLOR, MATURE, UPPER SIDE	Near 138A RHS
LEAF COLOR, MATURE, UNDER SIDE	Near 138B RHS
VENATION COLOR, UPPER SIDE	Near 144C RHS
VENATION COLOR, UNDER SIDE	Near 144D RHS
PETIOLE LENGTH	About 5.3 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 1 to 4
QUANTITY OF FLOWERS PER PLANT	About 183
NATURAL FLOWERING SEASON	About Spring to late Autumn
TIME TO FLOWER OR RESPONSE TIME	About 2~3 weeks
FRAGRANCE	Absent
FLOWER BUD LENGTH	About 20.7 mm
FLOWER BUD DIAMETER	About 5.4 mm

TABLE 1-continued

PLANT VARIETY DESCRIPTION

CHARACTERISTIC	APPLICATION VARIETY Sunpetu 3881
FLOWER BUD SHAPE	Cylindrical with 5 lines, Tip: twisted
FLOWER BUD COLOR	Near 79C RHS
FLOWER ASPECT; i.e., UPRIGHT, OUTWARD, DROOPING, etc.	Upright to outward
FLOWER SHAPE	Salverform
FLOWER DIAMETER	About 26.9 mm
FLOWER DEPTH (HEIGHT)	About 24.0 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
PETAL TIP	Mucronate
PETAL BASE	Fused
PETAL LENGTH	About 11.9 mm
PETAL WIDTH	About 12.3 mm
PETAL COLOR, WHEN OPENING, UPPER SIDE	Near 72A RHS
PETAL COLOR, WHEN OPENING, LOWER SIDE	Near N80C RHS
PETAL COLOR, FULLY OPENED, UPPER SIDE	Near N74A RHS
PETAL COLOR, FULLY OPENED, LOWER SIDE	Near 84C RHS
PETAL COLOR, FADING TO	— RHS
THROAT DIAMETER	About 8.8 mm
TUBE DIAMETER (PROXIMAL END)	About 3.1 mm
TUBE LENGTH	About 16.3 mm
THROAT COLOR (inside)	Near 83D and N92A
TUBE COLOR (outside)	Near 83C RHS
SEPAL ARRANGEMENT	Single whorl
NUMBER OF SEPALS	5
SEPAL SHAPE	Narrow elliptic
SEPAL MARGIN	Entire
SEPAL TIP	Obtuse
SEPAL BASE	Fused
SEPAL LENGTH	About 12.0 mm
SEPAL WIDTH	About 2.3 mm
SEPAL COLOR, IMMATURE, UPPER SIDE	Near 143B RHS
SEPAL COLOR, IMMATURE, UNDER SIDE	Near 143C RHS
SEPAL COLOR, MATURE, UPPER SIDE	Near 143B RHS

TABLE 1-continued

PLANT VARIETY DESCRIPTION

CHARACTERISTIC	APPLICATION VARIETY Sunpetu 3881
SEPAL COLOR, MATURE, UNDER SIDE	Near 143C RHS
CALYX SHAPE	Tubular, star shape
CALYX LENGTH	About 9.0 mm
CALYX DIAMETER	About 13.7 mm
PEDUNCLE LENGTH	About 15.1 mm
PEDUNCLE DIAMETER	About 0.7 mm
PEDUNCLE ANGLE	Upright to outward
PEDUNCLE TEXTURE	Pubescent
PEDUNCLE COLOR	Near 144A, Near the calyx: with 77A RHS Anthocyanin
STAMEN NUMBER	5
STAMEN LENGTH	About 10.6~13.5 mm
ANTHER SHAPE	Ellipsoidal
ANTHER SIZE	About 2.1 × 1.5 mm
ANTHER COLOR	Near 93C RHS
AMOUNT OF POLLEN	Moderate
POLLEN COLOR	Near 93D RHS
PISTIL NUMBER	1
PISTIL LENGTH	About 11.4 mm
STIGMA SHAPE	Transversely ellipsoidal
STIGMA COLOR	Near 92B RHS
STYLE COLOR	Near 145D RHS
OVARY COLOR	Near 146D RHS
OTHER FLOWER CHARACTERISTICS	
QUANTITY OF SEEDS	Seed production has not been observed.
Fruit	This variety will bear fruit but no fruits are produced up to date
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 3881', substantially as herein illustrated and described.

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