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

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(54) ***SENECIO CRUENTUS* PLANT NAMED 'SUNSENEBUBAKAI'**

(50) Latin Name: ***Senecio cruentus* (Masson ex L'Hér.) DC.**
Varietal Denomination: **Sunsenebubakai**

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A01H 5/02 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
USPC **Plt./480**

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
USPC Plt./480
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

PUBLICATIONS

Registration No. 10653, Registration date Sep. 30, 2002, Suntory Flowers Company, 1 page.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

Disclosed herein is a new and distinct variety of *Senecio* plant having blue and white-bicolored ray floerts, and upright and medium sized appearance.

2 Drawing Sheets

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Botanical designation: *Senecio cruentus* (Masson ex L'Hér.) DC.

Cultivar denomination: 'Sunsenebubakai'.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

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

A *Senecio cruentus* (Masson ex L'Hér.) DC. is a very popular plant that is used in flower bedding and potting in the winter and spring seasons.

The purpose of this invention is to obtain a new *Senecio* cultivar with abundant and large sized petals having blue and white-bicolored ray floerts, and an upright and medium sized appearance.

The new *Senecio* plant originated from cross-pollination of the female parent '09-83' and the male parent '09-09'. The female parent '09-83' (unpatented) used in the crossing of 'Sunsenebubakai' is a strain of the applicant's breeding lines (i.e., proprietary *Senecio* selection), having white petals, and the male parent '09-09' (unpatented) used in the crossing of 'Sunsenebubakai' is a strain of the applicant's breeding lines (i.e., proprietary *Senecio* selection), having light blue and pink-bicolored petals. The cross-pollination was conducted in March, 2010, at Higashiomi, Shiga, Japan.

In February 2011, the seedlings obtained by the crossing were planted in a field, and 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.

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In November 2013, the cultivation of the seedlings was repeated. The botanical characteristics of that plant were then examined, using similar variety 'Sunsenebuba' for comparison. As a result, it was concluded that this *Senecio* plant is distinguishable from any other variety, whose existence is known, and has uniform and stable characteristics.

The new variety of *Senecio* plant was then named 'Sunsenebubakai'.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

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

1. Abundant and large sized petals having blue and white-bicolored ray floerts.
2. Upright and medium sized appearance.

The new variety 'Sunsenebubakai' differs from the similar variety 'Sunsenebuba', which was applied for Japanese plant variety protection (the application number: 12095; the application date: 199/11/10; the registration number 10653; the registration date: Sep. 31, 2002), in the following points.

1. The ray floret color of 'Sunsenebubakai' is bicolor, blue (95B) and white (NN155C). That of 'Sunsenebuba' is bicolor, violet-blue (93B) and white (NN155C).
2. The flower diameter of 'Sunsenebubakai' is about 81 mm. That of 'Sunsenebuba' is about 68 mm.
3. Ray floret length of 'Sunsenebubakai' is about 31 mm. That of 'Sunsenebuba' is about 27 mm.
4. The disc diameter of 'Sunsenebubakai' is about 16 mm. That of 'Sunsenebuba' is about 12 mm.

This new variety of *Senecio* plant 'Sunsenebubakai' was asexually reproduced by the use of cuttings at Higashiomi, Shiga, Japan, and homogeneity and stability thereof were confirmed. 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 November 2013 while growing outdoors in wall pots which were about 15 cm in size at an age of approximately 6 months.

FIG. **1** is a photograph of a typical plant of the new variety of *Senecio* plant 'Sunsenebubakai' while growing in a pot.

FIG. **2** is a photograph of a close view of flowers of the new variety of *Senecio* plant 'Sunsenebubakai'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

In November 2013, the cultivation of the seedlings was repeated at Higashiomi, Shiga, Japan. The average day temperature was about 10° C., and the average night temperature was about 5° C. The plants were grown under natural sunlight. The number of days to flowering (response time) was about 22 weeks. The quality was maintained for about 150 days. The plants had temperature resistance to about 0° C. (the lowest temperature) and about 30° C. (the highest temperature). Further, the plants had the same tolerance to pests and pathogens as a typical *Senecio* plant.

For the parentage information: The female parent '09-83' (unpatented) used in the crossing of 'Sunsenebubakai' is a strain of the applicant's breeding lines (i.e., proprietary selection of *Senecio cruentus*), having white petals, and the male parent '09-09' (unpatented) used in the crossing of 'Sunsenebubakai' is a strain of the applicant's breeding lines (i.e., proprietary selection of *Senecio cruentus*), having light blue and pink-bicolored petals.

For the propagation information: The number of days in which roots started to form during the summer was about 7 days; approximate soil and/or air temperature during the summer was around 18-20° C.; number of days in which roots started to form during the winter was about 7 days; approximate soil and/or air temperature during the winter was around 18-20° C.; number of days to produce a rooted young plant during the summer was about 28 days; number of days to produce a rooted young plant during the winter was about 28 days; root density was fine; root branching was free; root color was NN155B; and root texture was fibrous.

The botanical characteristics of the new and distinct variety of *Senecio* plant named 'Sunsenebubakai' at an age of approximately 6 months are shown in the following Table. 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 5th edition 2007).

PLANT VARIETY DESCRIPTION

CHARACTERISTIC	APPLICATION VARIETY Sunsenebubakai	
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	
GROWTH HABIT	Upright	
PLANT HEIGHT	About 47.0	cm
PLANT DIAMETER OR AREA OF SPREAD	About 57.0	cm
PLANT VIGOR	Vigorous	
BRANCHING HABIT	Freely branching	
PINCHING REQUIRED?	Not required, 1~2 pinching stimulate brunching	
NUMBER OF LATERAL BRANCHES	About 8	
LATERAL BRANCH LENGTH	About 29.5	cm
LATERAL BRANCH DIAMETER	About 7.1	mm
INTERNODE LENGTH	About 15.7	mm
STEM ASPECT	Upright	
STEM COLOR (and bark color, if applicable)	Near 143A	RHS
STEM PUBESCENCE?	Pubescent	
OTHER PLANT/STEM CHARACTERISTICS	None	
LEAF ARRANGEMENT	Alternate	
COMPOUND OR SIMPLE?	Simple	
LEAF (LEAFLET) SHAPE	Cordate	
LEAF (LEAFLET) TIP	Acute	
LEAF (LEAFLET) BASE	Cordate	
LEAF LENGTH	About 64.3	mm
LEAF WIDTH	About 72.9	mm
LEAF THICKNESS	About 1.1	mm
LEAF (LEAFLET) TEXTURE	Smooth	
LEAF PUBESCENCE? (Upper side)	Smooth, Pubescence sparsely	
LEAF PUBESCENCE? (Lower side)	Smooth, Pubescence densely	
LEAF PUBESCENCE COLOR	Near NN155C	RHS
LEAF (LEAFLET) MARGIN	Palmately lobed, dentate	
DEGREE OF SERRATION	Shallow	
UNDULATION	Undulated, weak	
VENATION PATTERN	Reticulate venation	
LEAF COLOR, IMMATURE, UPPER SIDE	Near 137C	RHS
LEAF COLOR, IMMATURE, LOWER SIDE	Near 93C	RHS
LEAF COLOR, MATURE, UPPER SIDE	Near 137B	RHS
LEAF COLOR, MATURE, LOWER SIDE	Near 191A	RHS
VENATION COLOR, UPPER SIDE	Near 144A	RHS
VENATION COLOR, LOWER SIDE	Near 144A	RHS
PETIOLE LENGTH	About 50.0	mm
PETIOLE DIAMETER	About 2.4	mm
PETIOLE TEXTURE	Tomentose	
PETIOLE COLOR	Near 144A	RHS
WING	Absent	
STIPULES, TENDRILS, THORNS, SPINES OR PRICKLES? IF SO, GIVE COLOR AND SIZE	Absent	
OTHER FOLIAGE CHARACTERISTICS	None	
FILAMENT COLOR	4D	RHS
FILAMENT LENGTH	About 1.2	mm
STYLE LENGTH	About 4.0	mm
STYLE COLOR	145C	RHS
FLOWER ARRANGEMENT	Daisy-type inflorescence borne in upper leaf	

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PLANT VARIETY DESCRIPTION

CHARACTERISTIC	APPLICATION VARIETY Sunsenebubakai	
INFLORESCENCE TYPE OR FORM (if applicable)	Mounding	
INFLORESCENCE DIAMETER	About 22.0	cm
INFLORESCENCE HEIGHT	About 26.0	cm
FLOWER TYPE or FORM	Single	
FLOWERING HABIT	Continuous flowering Buds grow one after another from axils.	
QUANTITY OF FLOWERS and BUDS PER PLANT	About 144	
QUANTITY OF FLOWERS PER INFLORESCENCE	About 6	
NATURAL FLOWERING SEASON	Substantially continuous blooming from winter to late spring in Japan	
TIME TO FLOWER OR RESPONSE TIME	About 24 weeks	
FRAGRANCE	Absent	
FLOWER BUD LENGTH	About 7.3	mm
FLOWER BUD DIAMETER	About 6.3	mm
FLOWER BUD SHAPE	Globose	
FLOWER BUD COLOR	Near 144A	RHS
FLOWER ASPECT; i.e., UPRIGHT, OUTWARD, DROOPING, etc.	Upright	
FLOWER SHAPE	Daisy like shape	
FLOWER DIAMETER	About 81.0	mm
FLOWER DEPTH (HEIGHT)	About 12.0	mm
FLOWER LONGEVITY ON PLANT	About 2 weeks at around 15° C.	
PERSISTENT OR SELF-CLEANING?	Persistent	
*RAY FLORETS		
RAY FLORET TEXTURE, UPPER SURFACE	Velvety	
RAY FLORET TEXTURE, LOWER SURFACE	Smooth	
RAY FLORET ARRANGEMENT	Daisy type	
RAY FLORET NUMBER	About 13	
RAY FLORET SHAPE	Narrow elliptic	
RAY FLORET MARGIN	Entire	
RAY FLORET TIP	Bitten	
RAY FLORET BASE	Acute	
RAY FLORET LENGTH	About 31.0	mm
RAY FLORET WIDTH	About 7.9	mm
RAY FLORET COLOR, WHEN OPENING, UPPER SIDE	Near Main N89A Center NN155C	RHS
RAY FLORET COLOR, WHEN OPENING, LOWER SIDE	Near Mixed 93B and NN155C, Base NN155C only	RHS
RAY FLORET COLOR, FULLY OPENED, UPPER SIDE	Near Main 95B Center NN155C	RHS
RAY FLORET COLOR, FULLY OPENED, LOWER SIDE	Near Mixed 94B and NN155C, Base NN155C only	RHS
*DISC FLORET		
DISC DIAMETER	About 16.0	mm
DISC COLOR (DISC FLORET IMMATURE, MATURE)	Near N89C	RHS
DISC FLORET NUMBER	About 137	
DISC FLORET SHAPE	Tubular	
DISC FLORET TIP	5 pointed	
DISC FLORET BASE	Fused	
DISC FLORET LENGTH	About 7.2	mm
DISC FLORET DIAMETER	About 1.2	mm
INVOLUCURE SHAPE	Cup shape	
INVOLUCURE TEXTURE	Smooth	
INVOLUCURE COLOR	Near 143A	RHS
INVOLUCURE LENGTH	About 7	mm

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PLANT VARIETY DESCRIPTION

CHARACTERISTIC	APPLICATION VARIETY Sunsenebubakai	
INVOLUCURE DIAMETER	About 8.4	mm
INVOLUCURE ARRANGEMENT	Single whorl, fused	
NUMBER OF INVOLUCURAL BRACTS (PHYLLARIES)	About 15	
INVOLUCURAL BRACT (PHYLLARY) SHAPE	Lanceolate	
INVOLUCURAL BRACT (PHYLLARY) MARGIN	Entire	
INVOLUCURAL BRACT (PHYLLARY) TIP	Narrow acute	
INVOLUCURAL BRACT (PHYLLARY) BASE	Fused	
INVOLUCURAL BRACT (PHYLLARY) TEXTURE	Smooth	
INVOLUCURAL BRACT (PHYLLARY) LENGTH	About 8.5	mm
INVOLUCURAL BRACT (PHYLLARY) WIDTH	About 2.2	mm
INVOLUCURAL BRACT (PHYLLARY) COLOR, UPPER SIDE	Near 144A	RHS
INVOLUCURAL BRACT (PHYLLARY) COLOR, LOWER SIDE	Near 144C	RHS
PEDUNCLE LENGTH	About 32.3	mm
PEDUNCLE DIAMETER	About 2.9	mm
PEDUNCLE ANGLE	Upright to semi-upright	
PEDUNCLE STRENGTH	Medium	
PEDUNCLE TEXTURE	Smooth	
PEDUNCLE COLOR	Near 144A	RHS
STAMEN NUMBER	5 per a disc floret	
ANTHER SHAPE	Ellipsoidal	
ANTHER COLOR	Near N186A	RHS
ANTHER LENGTH	About 1.5	mm
AMOUNT OF POLLEN	Medium	
POLLEN COLOR	Near 7B	RHS
PISTIL LENGTH	About 7.0	mm
PISTIL NUMBER	1 per a ray and disc floret	
STIGMA SHAPE	Bi-parted	
STIGMA COLOR	Near N186A	RHS
OTHER FLOWER CHARACTERISTICS	None	
OVARY COLOR	145C	RHS
QUANTITY OF SEEDS	Seed production has not been observed.	
ROOT STRUCTURES such as BULBS, CORMS or RHIZOMES?	Fibrous root	
LOW TEMPERATURE TOLERANCE	0 ° C. (However, the plant would be seriously damaged by frost, as other *Senecio* Plant, at any temperature.)	
HIGH TEMPERATURE TOLERANCE	Around 30° C.	
DISEASE RESISTANCE AND/OR SUSCEPTIBILITY	Typical for *Senecio*	
PEST RESISTANCE AND/OR SUSCEPTIBILITY	Typical of *Senecio*	

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

What is claimed:

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

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