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(54) **ARCTOTIS PLANT NAMED ‘BONARC 0729’**

(50) Latin Name: *Arctotis hybrida*
Varietal Denomination: **Bonarc 0729**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Arctotis* plant named ‘Bonarc 0729’, characterized by its compact and spreading plant habit; freely branching growth habit; relatively small leaves; single-type inflorescences with red-colored ray florets; and good garden performance.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Botanical designation: *Arctotis hybrida*.
Cultivar denomination: ‘BONARC 0729’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct *Arctotis* plant, botanically known as *Arctotis hybrida* and hereinafter referred to by the name ‘Bonarc 0729’.

The new *Arctotis* plant is a product of a planned breeding program conducted by the Inventor in Yellow Rock, New South Wales, Australia. The objective of the breeding program is to create new compact and spreading *Arctotis* plants that are freely branching, flower early and have attractive ray floret coloration.

The new *Arctotis* plant originated from a cross-pollination conducted by the Inventor in July, 2006 in Yellow Rock, New South Wales, Australia of a proprietary selection of *Arctotis hybrida* identified as code number 03-41, not patented, as the female, or seed, parent with a proprietary selection of *Arctotis hybrida* identified as code number 00-49, not patented, as the male, or pollen, parent. The new *Arctotis* plant was discovered and selected by the Inventor as a single flowering plant within the progeny of the stated cross-pollination in a controlled greenhouse environment in Yellow Rock, New South Wales, Australia on Oct. 11, 2007.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Arctotis* plant by vegetative tip cuttings in a controlled greenhouse environment in Yellow Rock, New South Wales, Australia since October, 2007 has shown that the unique features of this new *Arctotis* plant are stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Plants of the new *Arctotis* plant have not been observed under all possible combinations of environmental conditions and cultural practices. The phenotype may vary somewhat

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with variations in environment such as temperature and light intensity, without, however, any variance in genotype.

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and are determined to be the unique characteristics of ‘Bonarc 0729’. These characteristics in combination distinguish ‘Bonarc 0729’ as a new and distinct *Arctotis* plant:

1. Compact and spreading plant habit.
2. Freely branching growth habit.
3. Relatively small leaves.
4. Single-type inflorescences with red-colored ray florets.
5. Good garden performance.

Plants of the new *Arctotis* differ from plants of the female parent selection in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Arctotis* are more freely branching than plants of the female parent selection.
2. Plants of the new *Arctotis* flower later than plants of the female parent selection.
3. Plants of the new *Arctotis* and the female parent selection differ in ray floret color as plants of the female parent selection have pink-colored ray florets.

Plants of the new *Arctotis* differ from plants of the male parent selection in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Arctotis* are more freely branching than plants of the male parent selection.
2. Plants of the new *Arctotis* flower earlier than plants of the male parent selection.
3. Plants of the new *Arctotis* and the male parent selection differ in ray floret color as plants of the male parent selection have pale pink-colored ray florets.

Plants of the new *Arctotis* can be compared to plants of *Arctotis hybrida* ‘Archnah’, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 14,732. In side-by-side comparisons, plants of the new *Arctotis* differ primarily from plants of ‘Archnah’ in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Arctotis* are more compact and spreading than plants of ‘Archnah’.
2. Plants of the new *Arctotis* have smaller leaves than plants of ‘Archnah’.

3. Plants of the new *Arctotis* and 'Archnah' differ in ray floret color as ray florets of 'Archnah' have orange-colored ray florets.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS 5

The accompanying photographs illustrate the overall appearance of the new *Arctotis* plant. These photographs show the colors as true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in colored reproductions of this type. Colors in the photographs may differ slightly from the color values cited in the detailed botanical description which accurately describe the colors of the new *Arctotis* plant.

The photograph at the top of the sheet is a side perspective view of a typical flowering plant of 'Bonarc 0729' grown in a container.

The photograph at the bottom of the sheet is a close-up view of a typical inflorescence of 'Bonarc 0729'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION 20

The aforementioned photographs and following observations, measurements and values describe plants grown during the spring in 20-cm containers in an outdoor nursery in Higashiomi, Shiga, Japan and under cultural practices typical of commercial *Arctotis* production. During the production of the plants, day temperatures ranged from 20° C. to 30° C. and night temperatures ranged from 13° C. to 25° C. Plants were three months old when the photographs were taken and four months old when the detailed description was taken. In the following description, color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 2007 Edition, except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

Botanical classification: *Arctotis hybrida* 'Bonarc 0729'. 35

Parentage:

Female, or seed, parent.—Proprietary selection of *Arctotis hybrida* identified as code number 03-41, not patented.

Male, or pollen, parent.—Proprietary selection of *Arctotis hybrida* identified as code number 00-49, not patented. 40

Propagation:

Type.—Vegetative tip cuttings.

Time to initiate roots, summer.—About ten days at temperatures about 20° C. to 25° C. 45

Time to initiate roots, winter.—About 17 days at temperatures about 20° C. to 25° C.

Time to produce a rooted young plants, summer.—About three weeks at temperatures about 20° C. to 25° C. 50

Time to produce a rooted young plants, winter.—About four weeks at temperatures about 20° C. to 25° C.

Root description.—Fibrous; typically white in color, actual color of the roots is dependent on substrate composition, water quality, fertilizer type and formulation, substrate temperature and physiological age of roots. 55

Rooting habit.—Freely branching; medium density.

Plant description: 60

Plant and growth habit.—Herbaceous single-type potted *Arctotis* plant; compact and spreading plant habit; moderately vigorous growth habit; freely branching growth habit with about eight lateral branches developing per plant; dense and bushy appearance. 65

Plant height, to top of inflorescences.—About 14.3 cm.

Plant width.—About 38.5 cm.

Lateral branches.—Length: About 7.9 cm. Diameter: About 5.2 mm. Internode length: About 2.2 cm. Strength: Strong. Aspect: Outwardly. Texture: Tomentose. Color: Close to 138C; proximally, tinged with close to 187A to 187C.

Leaf description:

Arrangement.—Alternate, simple.

Length.—About 6.2 cm.

Width.—About 2.9 cm.

Shape.—Narrowly elliptic.

Apex.—Acute.

Base.—Cuneate.

Margin.—Dentate.

Texture, upper and lower surfaces.—Tomentose.

Venation pattern.—Pinnate, reticulate.

Color.—Developing leaves, upper surface: Close to 191C. Developing leaves, lower surface: Close to 192D; venation, close to 191A. Fully expanded leaves, upper surface: Close to 137B; towards the margins, close to 187A; venation, close to 138D. Fully expanded leaves, lower surface: Close to 192C; venation, close to 194B.

Petiole length.—About 3.3 cm.

Petiole diameter.—About 1.5 mm.

Petiole texture, upper and lower surfaces.—Pubescent.

Petiole color, upper surface.—Close to 138C tinged with close to 187A.

Petiole color, lower surface.—Close to 138B.

Inflorescence description:

Appearance.—Single-type (daisy) inflorescence form with lanceolate-shaped ray florets and tubular disc florets; inflorescences borne on terminal and axillary peduncles above the foliar plane; ray and disc florets arranged acropetally on a capitulum; inflorescences face mostly upright.

Fragrance.—None detected.

Flowering season.—Plants flower during the spring and again in the autumn in Japan; plants begin flowering about six to eight weeks after planting.

Inflorescence longevity.—Inflorescences last about seven to ten days on the plant; inflorescences persistent.

Quantity of inflorescences.—Freely flowering habit with about 20 inflorescences developing per plant.

Inflorescence buds.—Height: About 1.8 cm. Diameter: About 1.3 cm. Shape: Globose. Color: Close to 185A.

Inflorescence size.—Diameter: About 6.7 cm. Depth (height): About 2.7 cm. Diameter of disc: About 1.3 cm. Receptacle diameter: About 1.1 cm. Receptacle height: About 1.9 mm.

Ray florets.—Quantity and arrangement: About 21 ray florets arranged in a single whorl. Length: About 2.8 cm. Width: About 7.5 mm. Shape: Lanceolate. Apex: Acute and emarginate. Base: Attenuate. Margin: Entire. Orientation: Initially upright, then perpendicular to the peduncle; apices slightly reflexed. Texture, upper surface: Smooth, glabrous; satiny. Texture, lower surface: Pubescent; satiny. Color: When opening, upper surface: Close to 46A; towards the base, close to N77A. When opening, lower surface: Close to 59C tinged with close to 21D; towards the base, close to 151B. Fully opened, upper

surface: Close to N34A; towards the apex, close to 34B; venation, close to N34A. Fully opened, lower surface: Close to 59C tinged with close to 21D; venation, close to 59B.

Disc florets.—Quantity and arrangement: About 108 5
massed at center of the receptacle. Length: About 5.2
mm. Diameter, at base: About 1.1 mm. Shape: Tubu-
lar, elongated. Apex: Five-pointed. Color, immature:
Close to 202A. Color, mature: Close to 153B.

Phyllaries.—Quantity and arrangement: About 40 10
arranged in about five imbricate whorls. Length,
outer phyllaries: About 5.7 mm. Width, outer phyl-
laries: About 2.2 mm. Length, inner phyllaries:
About 10.7 mm. Width, inner phyllaries: About 5.2 15
mm. Shape, outer phyllaries: Lanceolate. Apex,
outer phyllaries: Acuminate. Shape, inner phyllaries:
Elliptic. Apex, inner phyllaries: Obtuse to rounded.
Base, outer and inner phyllaries: Fused. Margin,
outer and inner phyllaries: Entire. Texture, outer and 20
inner phyllaries, upper surface: Smooth, glabrous.
Texture, outer and inner phyllaries, lower surface:
Pubescent. Color, outer phyllaries, upper and lower
surfaces: Close to 144C. Color, inner phyllaries,
upper and lower surfaces: Close to N144C; towards 25
the margins, close to 187B.

Peduncles.—Length: About 13.5 cm. Diameter: About
2.9 mm. Angle: Upright to outwardly. Strength:
Strong, flexible. Texture: Tomentose. Color: Close to
138C; distally, close to N77C.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium: Quantity per disc
florete: Five. Stamen length: About 4.6 mm. Anther
size: About 2.2 mm by 0.9 mm. Anther shape:
Lanceolate. Anther color: Close to 13C. Pollen
amount: None observed. Gynoecium: Quantity per
ray and disc florets: One. Pistil length: About 4.2
mm. Stigma shape: Bi-parted. Stigma color: Close to
200A. Style color: Close to N163D. Ovary color:
Close to 155B.

Seeds and fruits.—Seed and fruit production has not
been observed on plants of the new *Arctotis*.

15 Pathogen & pest resistance: Plants of the new *Arctotis* have
not been observed to be resistant to pathogens and pests
common to *Arctotis* plants.

Garden performance: Plants of the new *Arctotis* have been
observed to have good garden performance and to tolerate
wind, rain and temperatures ranging from about 0° C. to
about 40° C.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct *Arctotis* plant named 'Bonarc 0729'
as illustrated and described.

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