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

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(54) ***DAHLIA* PLANT NAMED 'BKDAMGE'**

(50) Latin Name: ***Dahlia hybrida***
Varietal Denomination: **BKDAMGE**

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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 36 days.

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(52) **U.S. Cl.**
USPC **Plt./321**

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

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Dahlia* plant named 'BKDAMGE', characterized by its broadly upright plant habit; freely basal branching habit; dense and bushy growth habit; medium-sized dark green-colored leaves; and large semi-double inflorescences with bright yellow and red bi-colored ray florets.

2 Drawing Sheets

Botanical designation: *Dahlia hybrida*.
Cultivar denomination: 'BKDAMGE'.

CROSS-REFERENCED TO CLOSELY-RELATED APPLICATIONS

Title: *Dahlia* Plant Named 'BKDAMYL'Applicant: Annie Cornelia Beekenkamp Filed: Concurrently with the instant application

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of *Dahlia* plant, botanically known as *Dahlia hybrida* and hereinafter referred to by the name 'BKDAMGE'.

The new *Dahlia* plant is a product of a planned breeding program conducted by the Inventor in Maasdijk, The Netherlands. The objective of the breeding program is to create new sturdy container *Dahlia* plants that have a freely basal branching habit, and large inflorescences with attractive ray floret coloration.

The new *Dahlia* plant originated from an open-pollination in September, 2011 in Maasdijk, The Netherlands of a proprietary selection of *Dahlia hybrida* identified as code number 4002035, not patented, as the female, or seed, parent with an unknown selection of *Dahlia hybrida* as the male, or pollen, parent. The new *Dahlia* plant was discovered and selected by the Inventor as a single flowering plant from within the progeny of the stated open-pollination in a controlled greenhouse environment in Maasdijk, The Netherlands in May, 2012.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Dahlia* plant by terminal cuttings in a controlled greenhouse environment in Maasdijk, The Netherlands since October, 2012 has shown that the unique features of this new *Dahlia* plant are stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Plants of the new *Dahlia* have not been observed under all possible combinations of environmental conditions and cultural conditions. The phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in environmental conditions 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 'BKDAMGE'. These characteristics in combination distinguish 'BKDAMGE' as a new and distinct *Dahlia* plant:

1. Broadly upright plant habit.
2. Freely basal branching habit; dense and bushy growth habit.
3. Medium-sized dark green-colored leaves.
4. Large semi-double inflorescences with bright yellow and red bi-colored ray florets.

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

1. Plants of the new *Dahlia* are more freely branching than plants of the female parent selection.
2. Plants of the new *Dahlia* and the female parent selection differ in ray floret color as plants of the female parent selection have solid yellow-colored ray florets.

Plants of the new *Dahlia* can be compared to plants of *Dahlia hybrida* 'BKDAMYL', disclosed in U.S. Plant patent application Ser. No. 14/999,410. Plants of the new *Dahlia* differ primarily from plants of 'BKDAMYL' in ray floret color as plants of 'BKDAMYL' have bright yellow-colored ray florets.

Plants of the new *Dahlia* can be compared to plants of *Dahlia hybrida* 'Fidahcali', disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 21,253. In side-by-side comparisons, plants of the new *Dahlia* differ from plants of 'Fidahcali' in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Dahlia* have darker green-colored leaves than plants of 'Fidahcali'.
2. Plants of the new *Dahlia* have larger inflorescences than plants of 'Fidahcali'.

3. Plants of the new *Dahlia* and 'Fidahcali' differ in ray floret color as plants of 'Fidahcali' have light yellow and red bi-colored ray florets.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying photographs illustrate the overall appearance of the new *Dahlia* plant showing 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 *Dahlia* plant.

The photograph on the first sheet comprises a side perspective view of a typical flowering plant of 'BKDAMGE' grown in a container.

The photograph on the second sheet is a close-up view of a typical inflorescence of 'BKDAMGE'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The aforementioned photographs and the following observations and measurements describe plants grown during the winter in 12-cm containers in a glass-covered greenhouse in Maasdijk, The Netherlands and under cultural practices typical of commercial *Dahlia* production. During the production of the plants, day and night temperatures ranged from 17° C. to 19° C. Plants were pinched one time and were nine weeks old when the photographs and description were taken. To induce inflorescence initiation and development, plants were grown under short nyctoperiod (long day) conditions. In the following description, color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 2015 Edition, except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

Botanical classification: *Dahlia hybrida* 'BKDAMGE'.

Parentage:

Female, or seed, parent.—Proprietary selection of *Dahlia hybrida* identified as code number 4002035, not patented.

Male, or pollen, parent.—Unknown selection of *Dahlia hybrida*, not patented.

Propagation:

Type.—By terminal cuttings.

Time to initiate roots, summer.—About 16 days at temperatures ranging from 18° C. to 21° C.

Time to initiate roots, winter.—About 19 days at temperatures ranging from 19° C. to 21° C.

Time to produce a rooted young plant, summer.—About 21 days at temperatures ranging from 18° C. to 21° C.

Time to produce a rooted young plant, winter.—About 23 days at temperatures ranging from 19° C. to 21° C.

Root description.—Medium in thickness, fibrous; typically creamy white to light brown in color, actual color of the roots is dependent on substrate composition, water quality, fertilizers, substrate temperature and physiological age of roots; tuber development has not been observed on plants of the new *Dahlia*.

Rooting habit.—Moderately freely branching; medium density.

Plant description:

Plant and growth habit.—Broadly upright and mounding plant form; overall plant shape, flattened globular; freely basal branching habit with about five primary branches developing per plant; inflorescences held above the foliar plane on strong peduncles; bushy and dense growth habit; pinching is not required but will improve branching habit; moderately vigorous growth habit.

Plant height, soil level to top of foliar plane.—About 15.1 cm.

Plant height, soil level to top of floral plane.—About 20.9 cm.

Plant diameter or spread.—About 25.4 cm.

Lateral branches.—Length: About 9.9 cm. Diameter: About 6 mm. Internode length: About 2.1 cm. Aspect: Primary branches are mostly erect; secondary branches, about 35° from primary branch axis. Strength: Moderately strong. Texture and luster: Smooth, glabrous; glossy. Color, developing and developed: Close to 144A and 146A.

Leaf & leaflet description:

Arrangement.—Leaves opposite and simple or compound with three leaflets.

Length, simple leaves.—About 9.3 cm.

Length, compound leaves.—About 10.1 cm.

Length, terminal leaflets.—About 8.2 cm.

Width, simple leaves.—About 6.4 cm.

Width, compound leaves.—About 10.1 cm.

Width, terminal leaflets.—About 5.1 cm.

Shape, simple leaves.—Ovate.

Shape, compound leaves in overall outline.—Broadly ovate.

Shape, leaflets.—Ovate.

Apex, leaflets.—Acute to slightly apiculate.

Base, leaflets.—Attenuate.

Margin, leaflets.—Coarsely serrate to dentate.

Venation pattern, leaflets.—Pinnate.

Texture and luster, upper surface, leaflets.—Slightly rugose, glabrous except for pubescence along the main vein; slightly velvety; slightly glossy.

Texture and luster, lower surface, leaflets.—Smooth, glabrous; slightly glossy.

Color.—Developing leaflets, upper surface: Close to NN137B. Developing leaflets, lower surface: Close to 147B. Fully expanded leaflets, upper surface: Close to darker than between NN137A and 147A; venation, close to 191A. Fully expanded leaflets, lower surface: Close to 146A tinged with close to between 183A and 200B; venation, close to 146A to 146B.

Petioles.—Length, simple leaves: About 3.9 cm. Length, compound leaves: About 4.7 cm. Width: About 4 mm. Height: About 3 mm. Strength: Moderately strong to strong. Texture and luster, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous; glossy. Color, upper surface: Close to 146A tinged with close to between 183A and 200B. Color, lower surface: Close to 146A.

Inflorescence description:

Appearance and arrangement.—Semi-double inflorescence form with ray and disc florets forming acropetally on a receptacle; inflorescences positioned above and beyond the foliar plane on strong peduncles; inflorescences face mostly upright to slightly outwardly; freely flowering habit with about 34 inflorescences developing per plant.

Fragrance.—None detected.

Flowering response and flowering period.—Early flowering habit, plants begin flowering about 61 days after planting; plants flower continuously during the autumn into the winter in The Netherlands.

Post-production longevity.—Inflorescences maintain good substance for about ten days on the plant; inflorescences persistent.

Inflorescence buds.—Height: About 8 mm. Diameter: About 1.2 cm. Shape: Flattened globular. Texture and luster: Smooth, glabrous; glossy. Color: Close to 144A; towards the base, close to 141A.

Inflorescence size.—Diameter: About 7.9 cm. Depth (height): About 4.7 cm. Disc diameter: About 1.8 cm.

Receptacles.—Height: About 1.5 mm. Diameter: About 8 mm. Shape: Flattened globular. Color: Close to 145A.

Ray florets.—Quantity per inflorescence and arrangement: About 45 arranged in about three whorls. Length: About 3.5 cm. Width: About 2.1 cm. Shape: Obovate. Apex: Obtuse. Base: Acute. Margin: Entire. Aspect: Upright to roughly horizontal and eventually downward; moderately concave. Texture and luster, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous; velvety; matte. Color: When opening, upper surface: Close to 6A and towards the base, close to 28B. When opening, lower surface: Close to 6C and towards the base, slightly tinged with close to 24B. Fully opened, upper surface: Close to 7A and towards the base, close to 42A; venation, same as lamina, close to 7A and towards the base, close to 42A; colors do not change with development. Fully opened, lower surface: Close to 6C and towards the base, slightly tinged with close to 25C; venation, close to 22B to 22C; colors do not change with development.

Disc florets.—Quantity per inflorescence and arrangement: About 60 massed at the center of the inflorescence in about five spiral whorls. Length: About 1.5 cm. Diameter: About 4 mm. Shape: Tubular, elongated; apices, acute. Texture and luster, inner and outer surfaces: Smooth, glabrous; glossy. Color, when opening, inner and outer surfaces: Apex and mid-section: Close to 13A. Base: Close to 151D. Color, fully opened, inner and outer surfaces: Apex and mid-section: Close to 13A. Base: Close to 151D.

Phyllaries.—Quantity per inflorescence and arrangement: About six arranged in about two whorls. Length: About 1 cm. Width: About 6 mm. Shape: Ovate. Apex: Bluntly acute. Base: Cuneate. Margin: Entire. Texture and luster, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous; moderately glossy. Color, upper surface: Close to 137B; venation, close to NN137A. Color, lower surface: Slightly darker than 143A; venation, close to NN137A.

Peduncles.—Length, terminal peduncle: About 8.4 cm. Diameter, terminal peduncle: About 2.5 mm. Strength: Strong. Texture and luster: Smooth, glabrous; moderately glossy. Color: Close to 146B to 146C tinged with close to between 177A and 200C.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium, present on disc florets only: Quantity per floret: About five. Filament length: About 2 mm. Filament color: Close to 150C. Anther shape: Narrowly oblong. Anther length: About 4 mm. Anther color: Close to 17C to 17D. Pollen amount: Abundant. Pollen color: Close to 23A. Gynoecium, present on disc florets only: Quantity per floret: One. Pistil length: About 9 mm. Style length: About 5 mm. Style color: Close to 150C. Stigma diameter: About 2 mm. Stigma shape: Cleft, decurrent. Stigma color: Close to 17A. Ovary color: Close to 145D. Seeds and fruits: Seed and fruit development have not been observed on plants of the new *Dahlia*.

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

Temperature tolerance: Plants of the new *Dahlia* have been observed to tolerate high temperatures of about 35° C. and to be suitable for USDA Hardiness Zones 9 to 11.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct *Dahlia* plant named 'BKDAMGE' as illustrated and described.

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