US00PP30021P3

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

(10) **Patent No.: US PP30,021 P3**
(45) **Date of Patent: Dec. 25, 2018**

(54) ***RANUNCULUS* PLANT NAMED 'ABOSHOSSI'**

(50) Latin Name: ***Ranunculus asiaticus***
Varietal Denomination: **ABOSHOSSI**

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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 0 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **15/731,515**

(22) Filed: **Jun. 20, 2017**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2018/0042160 P1 Feb. 8, 2018

(30) **Foreign Application Priority Data**

Aug. 5, 2016 (QZ) ..... PBR 2016/1919

(51) **Int. Cl.**
A01H 5/02 (2018.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
USPC **Plt./263.1**
CPC ***A01H 5/02*** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
USPC Plt./263.1
See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct *Ranunculus* cultivar named 'ABOSHOSSI' is disclosed, characterized by a unique combination of colors in the corolla, including green and shades of red. The petals are deeply undulating. Vase life of the cut flower is exceptionally long. The new variety is a *Ranunculus*, normally produced as a cut flower and potentially useful as an ornamental plant.

2 Drawing Sheets

1

Latin name of the genus and species: *Ranunculus asiaticus*.

Variety denomination: 'ABOSHOSSI'.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The new *Ranunculus* cultivar is a product of a planned breeding program conducted by the inventor, Alberto Biancheri in Camporosso Mare, Italy. The cross resulting in this new variety was made during 2007.

The seed parent is the, unpatented, proprietary variety referred to as *Ranunculus* 'PPRs158-05. The pollen parent is the unpatented, proprietary variety referred to as *Ranunculus* 'AB5'. The new variety was discovered in 2010 by the inventor in a group of seedlings resulting from the 2008 crossing, in a research greenhouse in Camporosso Mare, Italy.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar was first performed by vegetative division of buds sprouting from the rhizome of the selected plant. Subsequent propagation has been performed by tissue culture. First propagation took place at a research greenhouse in Camporosso Mare, Italy in 2010 and has shown that the unique features of this cultivar are stable and reproduced true to type in multiple successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The cultivar 'ABOSHOSSI' has not been observed under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in environment such as temperature, day length, and light intensity, without, however, any variance in genotype.

2

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and are determined to be the unique characteristics of 'ABOSHOSSI' These characteristics in combination distinguish 'ABOSHOSSI' as a new and distinct *Ranunculus* cultivar:

1. Unique combination of colors in the corolla, including green and shades of red.
2. Rounded shape of the corolla when it is fully open.
3. Interesting texture to petals.
4. Exceptionally long vase life.

PARENT COMPARISON

Plants of the new cultivar 'ABOSHOSSI' are similar to plants of the seed parent, in most horticultural characteristics, however, plants of the new cultivar 'ABOSHOSSI' differ in the following;

1. Flowers of the new variety are Red 45B with a bright Yellow 6D and Yellow-Green 144A secondary color. Flowers of the seed parent are Red-Purple N57A with a strong center coloration Yellow-Green 144A.

Plants of the new cultivar 'ABOSHOSSI' are similar to plants of the pollen parent, in most horticultural characteristics, however, plants of the new cultivar 'ABOSHOSSI' differ in the following;

1. The new variety has a different flower color than the pollen parent. Flowers of the new variety are Red 45B with a bright Yellow 6D and Yellow-Green 144A secondary color. Flowers of the pollen parent are Orange 26B with a secondary coloration of Yellow-Green 154C.
2. Flower shape of the new variety is uniquely rounded, with festooned edges, the pollen parent flower shape is more flattened and lacks the festooned edges of the new variety.

COMMERCIAL COMPARISON

Plants of the new cultivar 'ABOSHOSSI' are comparable to the commercial variety *Ranunculus* 'ABATLAUA', filed concurrently having application Ser. No. 15/731,516. The two *Ranunculus* varieties are similar in most horticultural characteristics; however, the new variety 'ABOSHOSSI' differs in the following:

1. Combination of colors in the corolla; 'ABOSHOSSI' has a corolla made up of shades of purple and green, corolla color of 'ABATLAUA' is shades of purple and green.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying photograph in FIG. **1** illustrates in full color flowering plants of the new variety at approximately five months old, grown in a greenhouse.

FIG. **2** illustrates a close up of plant parts.

The photographs were taken using conventional techniques and although colors may appear different from actual colors due to light reflectance it is as accurate as possible by conventional photographic techniques.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

In the following description, color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart 6^{th} edition, except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used. The following observations and measurements describe 'ABOSHOSSI' plants grown in a greenhouse Camporosso Mare, Italy. The plant described has been cultivated under glass, planted in the months of September and described in the month of February. One must always refer to these conditions of season and culture, when considering the present description. By reason of different climate or culture conditions, differences may arise between certain characteristics of the plant and the corresponding characteristics of the description. It should be considered as normal and do not modify the essence of the present invention because it will possible to identify the plant by means of the totality of the characteristics given in the description. The rhizome has been planted on raised benches in a peat and pumice substrate mixture. The growing temperature ranged from 12° C. to 25° C. during the day and from 2° C. to 8° C. during the night. General light conditions are bright, normal sunlight. Measurements and numerical values represent averages of typical plant types.

Botanical classification: *Ranunculus asiaticus 'ABOSHOSSI'*.

Propagation:

Time to rooting.—15 days at approximately 10-12° C.

Time to produce a rooted plantlet.—20 days.

Root description.—Secondary roots grow from the rhizome and are fasciculate type.

Plant:

Growth habit.—Herbaceous perennial, robust plant, semi-erect vegetation.

Height to top flower.—50 to 55 cm.

Plant spread.—40 to 45 cm.

Growth rate.—Medium.

Branching characteristics.—Main floral stems grow from a basal rosette with 1 or 2 lateral branches, each one of which has a flower.

Length of lateral branches.—40 to 45 cm.

Diameter of lateral branches.—0.5 to 0.8 cm.

Texture of lateral branches.—Slightly tomentose.

Internode length.—Internodes are extremely close together forming a basal rosette.

Strength of lateral branches.—Medium.

Color of lateral branches.—Strong Yellow Green (RHS 144B).

Angle of branches.—20° to 25°.

Number of leaves per lateral branch.—Usually 2.

Foliage: The leaves, usually numerous, have a marked heterophyllia, in relation to the degree of their development and their position on the plant (base of the plant; floral stem).

Leaf at the base of the plant.—Arrangement: Simple (young leaf, YL); Biternate (mature leaf, ML). Average Length: 25 to 32 cm. Average Width: 15 to 20 cm. Overall Shape of blade: Obovate (young leaf); Palmatipartite (mature leaf). Dissected leaves, describe lobes, quantity of dissection: Young leaves are generally not lobed; mature leaves are generally divided in 3 parts, each one of which is further divided in more lobes. Apex: Rounded. Base: Rounded. Attachment: Base of the plant. Margin: Dentate. Texture of top surface: Slightly tomentose. Texture of bottom surface: Slightly tomentose. Appearance of top surface: Glossy. Appearance bottom surface: Very glossy. Leaf internode length: The internodes are extremely close together, forming a basal rosette. Color: Young foliage upper side: Moderate Olive Green (RHS 137A). Young foliage under side: Moderate Yellow Green (RHS 147C). Mature foliage upper side: Moderate Olive Green (RHS 137A). Mature foliage under side: Moderate Yellow Green (RHS 147C). Venation: Type: Dichotomous; plunging in to the limb at the upper surface; raised on the limb at the lower surface. Venation color upper side: Strong Yellow Green (RHS 144B). Venation color under side: Strong Yellow Green (RHS 144B). Petiole: Petiole: Long, tubular, rigid. Length: 15 to 20 cm. Diameter: 0.3 to 0.5 cm. Pubescence: Slightly tomentose. Color: Strong Yellow Green (RHS 144B).

Leaf inserted at the nodes of the floral stems (sl).—Arrangement: Biternate. Average Length: 15 to 22 cm. Average Width: 8 to 16 cm. Overall Shape of blade: Palmatipartite. Dissected leaves, describe lobes, quantity of dissection: Generally divided in 3 parts, each one of which is further divided in many deeply incised lobes. Apex: Acute. Base: Acute. Attachment: Floral stems. Margin: Dentate. Texture of top surface: Slightly tomentose. Texture of bottom surface: Slightly tomentose. Appearance of top surface: Glossy. Appearance bottom surface: Glossy. Leaf internode length: 5 to 7 cm. Color: foliage upper side: Greyish Olive Green (RHS NN137A). foliage under side: Moderate Yellow Green (RHS 137C). Venation: Type: Dichotomous, plunging in to the limb at the upper surface and raised on the limb at the lower surface. Venation color upper side: Strong Yellow Green (RHS 144B). Venation color under side: Strong Yellow Green (RHS 144B). Petiole: Petiole: Slightly flat, rigid. Length: 3 to 5 cm. Diameter: 0.4 to 0.7 cm. Pubescence: Slightly tomentose. Color: Strong Yellow Green (RHS 144B).

Flower:

Bloom period.—Winter to Spring.

Vase life (*cut flower*).—20-25 days.

Persistent or self-cleaning.—Self-Cleaning.

Bud.—Closed bud (CB): Shape: Flattened globular. Length: 0.6 to 0.8 cm. Diameter: 1.1 to 1.6 cm. Color: Strong Yellow Green (RHS 143A). Slightly open bud (OB): Shape: Flattened globular. Length: 1.2 to 1.4 cm. Diameter: 2.0 to 2.3 cm. Color: Strong Yellow Green (RHS 144C); Strong Red (RHS 46A) near the margins.

Flower size ($of_{1.2}$): Diameter: 8 to 11 cm. Height: 3 to 5 cm.

Corolla ($of_{1.2}$): Round, regular, in the form of a flat section with slightly festooned edges.

Petals.—Arrangement: Imbricated, disposed on the receptacle in very tight verticils. The size of the petals is quite variable, according to the position in the corolla, decreasing from the exterior toward the center. The average size of fully developed petal is as follows: Lobe Length: 3 to 5 cm. Lobe Width: 2.0 to 2.5 cm. Quantity: Double flower, petals are very numerous typically 150 to 200. Texture: Silky, thin, resistant, slightly tomentose on the lower surface. Lobe Apex: Flat to Slightly rounded. Lobe shape: Triangular. Margin: Crenulate. Aspect: Deeply undulating.

Color when opening (*cf*).—Upper surface: Vivid Red (RHS 45B) at the apical margin; Brilliant Yellow Green (RHS 150B) near the base and the lateral margin; Strong Yellow Green (RHS 144A). Lower surface: Vivid Red (RHS 45B) near the apical margin; Brilliant Yellow Green (RHS 150B) near the base and the lateral margin; Strong Yellow Green (RHS 144A).

Color fully opened (*of*).—Upper surface (PU_1): Vivid Red (RHS 45B) near the apical margin; Brilliant Greenish Yellow (RHS 6D); Strong Yellow Green (RHS 144A) at the center. Lower surface (PL_1): Vivid Red (RHS 45B) near the apical margin; Brilliant Greenish Yellow (RHS 6D); Strong Yellow Green (RHS 144A) at the center.

Other cultural improvements or features.—In this variety, the colors of the corolla could present a lack of Red tones and an increase of Yellow and Green tones. This is already noticeable in the flowers that are opening and is present in those that are wide open (OF_2; PU_2. PL_2). This variation of color, partially typical of this variety, is accentuated in particular growing conditions, in relation to light exposure, to the temperature and to the different composition of fertilizers used by the various farms.

Calyx to sepals (*s*): Quantity per flower: 6 to 10. Shape: Concave, incurved. Length: 2.5 to 2.9 cm. Width: 0.6 to 0.8 cm. Apex: Acute. Base: Flat. Margin: Entire. Texture: Lower surface is tomentose; Upper surface is glabrous. Color Upper Surface: Strong Yellow Green (RHS 144C). Color Lower Surface: Moderate Yellow Green (RHS 137 C).

Peduncle.—None.

Pedicel.—Length: 35 to 45 cm. Diameter: 1.1 to 1.4 cm. Color: Strong Yellow Green (RHS 144B). Orientation: Upright, straight, rigid. Pubescence: Slightly tomentose.

Fragrance.—None.

Reproductive organs:

Androecium.—Stamens: Almost completely transformed as petals.

Gynoecium.—The pistils are numerous, short, locked together at the center of the corolla in a Strong Yellow Green (RHS 144B) and Dark Purple (RHS N79B), dome-shaped apocarpous gynoecium.

Other characteristics:

Seeds and fruits.—Seeds and fruit production not observed.

Disease to pest resistance.—Neither resistance nor susceptibility to normal diseases and pests of *Ranunculus* has been observed.

Temperature tolerance.—Upper and lower temperature tolerance not observed, plants have been grown in a climate controlled greenhouse. *Ranunculus asiaticus* typically tolerates temperatures within USDA Zones 7 to 11.

What is claimed is:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Ranunculus* plant named 'ABOSHOSSI' as herein illustrated and described.

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FIG. 1

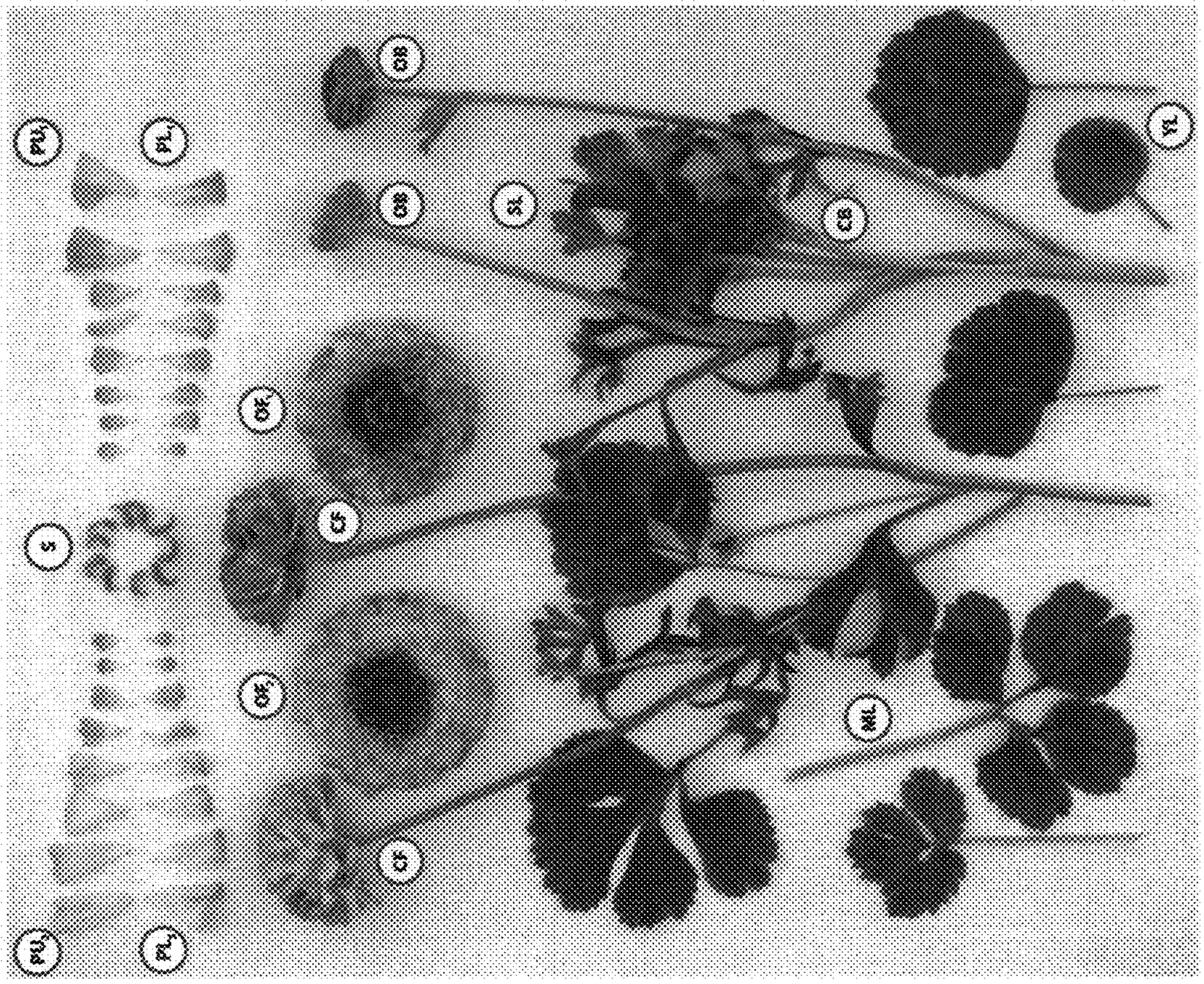

FIG. 2