



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

(10) **Patent No.:** **US PP30,699 P2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Jul. 9, 2019**

(54) **PENSTEMON PLANT NAMED ‘BALMIBRED’**

(50) Latin Name: *Penstemon* hybrid
Varietal Denomination: **Balmibred**

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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.: **15/999,932**

(22) Filed: **Aug. 31, 2018**

(51) **Int. Cl.**
A01H 5/02 (2018.01)
A01H 6/68 (2018.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
USPC **Plt./465**

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
USPC Plt./263.1, 465
See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Penstemon* plant named
‘Balmibred’, characterized by its medium red-purple col-
ored flowers, dark green-colored foliage, and moderately
vigorous, compact-upright growth habit, is disclosed.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Latin name of genus and species of plant claimed: *Pen-*
stemon hybrid.

Variety denomination: ‘Balmibred’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of *Penstemon* plant botanically known as *Penstemon* hybrid
and hereinafter referred to by the cultivar name ‘Balmibred’.

The new cultivar originated in a controlled breeding
program in Hem, the Netherlands during August 2014. The
objective of the breeding program was the development of
Penstemon cultivars having a long flowering season with a
compact-upright growth habit.

The new *Penstemon* cultivar is the result of cross-pollina-
tion. The female (seed) parent of the new cultivar is the
proprietary *Penstemon* hybrid breeding selection coded
G3003-01, not patented, characterized by its medium rose-
colored flowers, dark green-colored foliage, and moderately
vigorous, mounded growth habit. The male (pollen) parent
of the new cultivar is the proprietary *Penstemon* hybrid
breeding selection coded G3003-02, not patented, charac-
terized by its medium red-colored flowers, dark green-
colored foliage, and vigorous, semi-upright growth habit.
The new cultivar was discovered and selected as a single
flowering plant within the progeny of the above stated
cross-pollination during July 2015 in a controlled environ-
ment in Hem, the Netherlands.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by terminal stem
cuttings since July 2015 in Hem, the Netherlands and
Elburn, Ill. has demonstrated that the new cultivar repro-
duces true to type with all of the characteristics, as herein
described, firmly fixed and retained through successive
generations of such asexual propagation.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The following characteristics of the new cultivar have
been repeatedly observed and can be used to distinguish
‘Balmibred’ as a new and distinct cultivar of *Penstemon*
plant:

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1. Medium red-purple colored flowers;
2. Dark green-colored foliage; and
3. Moderately vigorous, compact-upright growth habit.

Plants of the new cultivar differ from plants of the female
parent primarily in having a different flower color and a
compact-upright growth habit. Plants of the new cultivar
differ from plants of the male parent primarily in having
reduced growth vigor and a compact-upright growth habit.

Of the many commercially available *Penstemon* cultivars,
the most similar in comparison to the new cultivar is ‘Carillo
Red’, not patented. However, in comparison, plants of the
new cultivar differ from plants of ‘Carillo Red’ in at least the
following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new cultivar are more compact than plants
of ‘Carillo Red’; and
2. Plants of the new cultivar have more flowers per plant
than plants of ‘Carillo Red’.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying photographs show, as nearly true as it
is reasonably possible to make the same in color illustrations
of this type, typical flower and foliage characteristics of the
new cultivar. Colors in the photographs differ slightly from
the color values cited in the detailed description, which
accurately describes the colors of ‘Balmibred’. The plants
were approximately four months old. The plants were grown
in one-gallon containers for approximately 12 weeks in a
greenhouse in Elburn, Ill. Plants were given two pinches,
one at one week before transplant and one two weeks after
transplant.

FIG. 1 illustrates a side view of the overall growth and
flowering habit of ‘Balmibred’.

FIG. 2 illustrates a close-up view of an inflorescence of
‘Balmibred’.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The new cultivar has not been observed under all possible
environmental conditions to date. Accordingly, it is possible

that the phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in the environment, such as temperature, light intensity, and day length, without, however, any variance in genotype.

The chart used in the identification of colors described herein is The R.H.S. Colour Chart of The Royal Horticultural Society, London, England, 2015 edition, except where 5
general color terms of ordinary significance are used. The color values were determined in July 2018 under natural light conditions in West Chicago, Ill.

The following descriptions and measurements describe 10
approximately four-month old plants produced from cuttings from stock plants and grown under conditions comparable to those used in commercial practice. The plants were grown in one-gallon containers for approximately 12 15
weeks in a greenhouse in Elburn, Ill. followed by 1 week in an open-sided polyhouse in West Chicago, Ill. Plants were given two pinches, one at one week before transplant and one two weeks after transplant. Greenhouse temperatures in Elburn, Ill. were maintained at approximately 65° F. to 70° 20
F. (18.3° C. to 21.1° C.) during the day and approximately 55° F. to 60° F. (12.8° C. to 15.6° C.) during the night. No supplemental lighting was provided. Measurements and numerical values represent averages of typical plants. Botanical classification: *Penstemon* hybrid 'Balmibred'. 25
Parentage:

Female parent.—Proprietary *Penstemon* hybrid breeding selection coded G3003-01, not patented.

Male parent.—Proprietary *Penstemon* hybrid breeding selection coded G3003-02, not patented. 30

Propagation:

Type cutting.—Terminal stem.

Time to initiate roots.—Approximately 10 to 12 days.

Time to produce a rooted cutting.—Approximately 5 to 6 weeks. 35

Root description.—Fine to medium, fibrous white to light brown in color.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching.

Plant description:

Commercial crop time.—Approximately 10 to 12 40
weeks from a rooted cutting to finish in a 15 cm pot.

Growth habit and general appearance.—Tender perennial; moderately vigorous, compact-upright growth habit.

Hardiness.—USDA Zones 7a (0° F. to 5° F./-17.8° C. 45
to -15° C.).

Size.—Height from soil level to top of plant plane: Approximately 32.0 cm. Width: Approximately 33.0 cm.

Branching habit.—Freely branching. Pinching 50
enhances lateral branching. Quantity of branches per plant: Approximately 5 main basal branches and approximately 19 lateral branches.

Lateral branch.—Shape: Round in cross section. Strength: Strong. Length to base of peduncle: 55
Approximately 12.0 cm. Diameter: Approximately 2.0 mm to 3.0 mm. Length of central internode: Approximately 2.3 cm. Texture: Glabrous. Color of young stem: 145B. Color of mature stem: 146B.

Foliage description:

General description.—Quantity of leaves per branch: 60
Approximately 10. Fragrance: None detected. Form: Simple. Arrangement: Opposite and decussate.

Leaves.—Aspect: Acute angle to stem with blade perpendicular and tips downward turning. Shape: Lanceolate. Margin: Shallowly serrate. Apex: Acute. 65

Base: Sessile. Venation pattern: Pinnate. Length of mature leaf: Approximately 5.0 cm. Width of mature leaf: Approximately 1.3 cm. Texture of upper and lower surfaces: Glabrous. Color of upper surface of young and mature foliage: 137A with venation of 146D. Color of lower surface of young and mature foliage: Closest to 137B with venation of 146D.

Flowering description:

Flowering habit.—'Balmibred' is freely flowering under outdoor growing conditions blooming in late spring and reblooming in late summer.

Lastingness of individual floret.—Approximately 6 to 7 days.

Inflorescence description:

General description.—Type: Terminal raceme, not persistent, multilateral arrangement. Quantity of open inflorescences per plant: Approximately 11. Fragrance: None detected. Length or height of inflorescence: Approximately 13.0 cm to 20.0 cm. Width of inflorescence: Approximately 6.0 cm to 8.0 cm. Quantity of fully-open flowers per inflorescence: Approximately 6 to 8.

Peduncle.—Strength: Strong. Aspect: Erect. Length: Approximately 2.0 cm. Diameter: Approximately 2.0 cm to 3.0 mm. Texture: Glabrous. Color: 146B.

Flower description:

Type.—Single, zygomorphic.

Bud.—Rate of opening: Generally takes 3 to 4 days for bud to progress from first color to fully open flower.

Bud just before opening.—Shape: Obovoid. Length: Approximately 1.3 cm. Diameter: Approximately 6.0 mm. Texture: Densely glandular pubescent. Gland color: Colorless, transparent. Color: Calyx of 137A with base of 146C and an overlay of 187A near apex; petals of 61A to 61B with abaxial side of 155C. *Corolla*.—Shape: Bilabiate, upper lip of two lobes and lower lip having three lobes. Width: Approximately 1.8 cm. Length: Approximately 1.8 cm. Depth: Approximately 2.5 cm.

Upper lip lobes.—Shape: Ovate. Margin: Entire. Apex: Rounded. Length from throat: Approximately 5.0 mm. Width: Approximately 4.0 mm. Texture of upper (inner) surface: Glabrous. Texture of lower (outer) surface: Sparsely glandular pubescent. Gland color: Colorless, transparent. Color of upper (inner) surface when first and fully open: 61A. Color of lower (outer) surface when first and fully open: 59A.

Lower lip lobes.—Shape: Ovate. Margin: Entire. Apex: Rounded. Length from throat of central lobe: Approximately 5.0 mm. Width of central lobe: Approximately 6.0 mm. Length from throat of lateral lobes: Approximately 6.0 mm. Width of lateral lobes: Approximately 7.0 mm. Texture of upper (inner) surface: Glabrous. Texture of lower (outer) surface: Sparsely glandular pubescent. Gland color: Colorless, transparent. Color of upper (inner) surface when first and fully open: 61A. Color of lower (outer) surface when first and fully open: 59A.

Corolla tube.—Length: Approximately 2.0 cm. Width: Approximately 9.0 mm. Texture of inner surface: Glabrous. Texture of outer surface: Moderately pubescent. Color of inner surface: NN155A with stripes of 61A near lower lobes. Color of outer surface: 59A to 59C transitions to 61B to 61C with age, spot of NN155A on abaxial side.

Calyx.—Shape: Cupped. Length: Approximately 8.0 mm. Diameter: Approximately 4.0 mm.

Sepals.—Quantity per flower: 5. Apex: Acute. Base: Truncate. Length: Approximately 8.0 mm. Width: Approximately 2.0 mm. Texture of inner surface: 5
Glabrous. Texture of outer surface: Moderately glandular pubescent. Gland color: Colorless, transparent. Color of inner surface: 137A. Color of outer surface: 137A with base of 146C and an overlay of 187A near apex. 10

*Pedice**l*.—Strength: Strong, flexible. Aspect: At an acute angle. Length: Approximately 1.0 mm to 2.0 mm. Diameter: Approximately 1.0 mm. Texture: Densely glandular pubescent. Gland color: Colorless, transparent. Color: 146B to 146A tinted faintly 15
with 187A.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium: Stamen quantity: 5 per flower, one lacking a mature anther. Stamen length: Approximately 1.9 cm to 2.2 cm. Filament length: Approximately 1.8 cm to 2.1 cm. Filament 20

color: NN155D. Anther shape: Horseshoe-like. Anther length: Approximately 2.0 mm. Anther color: 155D with an overlay of 59D. Pollen amount: Abundant. Pollen color: NN155A. Gynoecium: Pistil quantity: 1 per flower. Pistil length: Approximately 2.2 cm. Stigma shape: Conical. Stigma length: Less than 1.0 mm. Stigma color: NN155D. Style length: Approximately 1.9 cm. Style color: NN155D with a faint overlay of 187A at base. Ovary length: Approximately 3.0 mm. Ovary color: N144C.

Seed and fruit production: Neither seed nor fruit production has been observed.

Disease and pest resistance: Resistance to pathogens and pests common to *Penstemon* has not been observed.

What is claimed is:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Penstemon* plant named 'Balmibred', substantially as herein illustrated and described.

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FIG. 1



FIG. 2