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Hofmann

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(54) **OSTEOSPERMUM PLANT NAMED**
‘INOSTEPINK’

(50) Latin Name: *Osteospermum ecklonis*
Varietal Denomination: **Inostepink**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Osteospermum* plant named ‘Inostepink’, characterized by its compact and upright plant habit; moderately vigorous to vigorous growth habit; freely branching habit; dense and bushy appearance; early and freely flowering habit; long flowering period; large inflorescences with light purple and red purple-colored ray florets and purple-colored disc florets; and good summer garden performance.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Botanical designation: *Osteospermum ecklonis*.
Cultivar denomination: ‘INOSTEPINK’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of *Osteospermum* plant, botanically known as *Osteospermum ecklonis* and hereinafter referred to by the name ‘Inostepink’.

The new *Osteospermum* plant is a product of a planned breeding program conducted by the Inventor in Heidesheim, Germany. The objective of the breeding program is to create compact and bushy *Osteospermum* plants with numerous large attractive flowers and good summer garden performance.

The new *Osteospermum* plant originated from a cross-pollination made by the Inventor in July, 2014 of a proprietary selection of *Osteospermum ecklonis* identified as code number O 13 206-2, not patented, as the female, or seed, parent with a proprietary selection of *Osteospermum ecklonis* identified as code number O 12 223-3, not patented, as the male, or pollen, parent. The new *Osteospermum* plant was discovered and selected by the Inventor as a single flowering plant from within the progeny of the stated cross-pollination grown in a controlled greenhouse environment in Heidesheim, Germany in April, 2015.

Asexual reproduction of the *Osteospermum* plant by vegetative tip cuttings in Heidesheim, Germany since June, 2015 has shown that the unique features of this new *Osteospermum* plant are stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Plants of the new *Osteospermum* 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 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 ‘Inostepink’. These characteristics in combination distinguish ‘Inostepink’ as a new and distinct *Osteospermum* plant:

1. Compact and upright plant habit.
2. Moderately vigorous to vigorous growth habit.
3. Freely branching habit; dense and bushy appearance.
4. Early and freely flowering habit.
5. Long flowering period.
6. Large inflorescences with light purple and red purple-colored ray florets and purple-colored disc florets.
7. Good summer garden performance.

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

1. Plants of the new *Osteospermum* are more compact than plants of the female parent selection.
2. Plants of the new *Osteospermum* have larger inflorescences than plants of the female parent selection.
3. Plants of the new *Osteospermum* have better summer garden performance than plants of the female parent selection.

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

1. Plants of the new *Osteospermum* are not as compact as plants of the male parent selection.
2. Ray florets of plants of the new *Osteospermum* are light purple and red purple in color whereas ray florets of plants of the male selection are cream-colored.
3. Plants of the new *Osteospermum* have better summer garden performance than plants of the male parent selection.

Plants of the new *Osteospermum* can be compared to plants of *Osteospermum ecklonis* 'Osjamlipur', disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 17,410. In side-by-side comparisons, plants of the new *Osteospermum* differ from plants of 'Osjamlipur' in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Osteospermum* are more vigorous than plants of 'Osjamlipur'.
2. Ray florets of plants of the new *Osteospermum* are light purple and red purple in color whereas ray florets of plants of 'Osjamlipur' are light purple in color.
3. Plants of the new *Osteospermum* have better summer garden performance than plants of 'Osjamlipur'.

Plants of the new *Osteospermum* can also be compared to plants of *Osteospermum ecklonis* 'Oslalipu', disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 18,873. In side-by-side comparisons, plants of the new *Osteospermum* differ from plants of 'Oslalipu' in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Osteospermum* are more vigorous than plants of 'Oslalipu'.
2. Ray florets of plants of the new *Osteospermum* are light purple and red purple in color whereas ray florets of plants of 'Oslalipu' are lighter purple in color.
3. Plants of the new *Osteospermum* have better summer garden performance than plants of 'Oslalipu'.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying colored photographs illustrate the overall appearance of the new *Osteospermum* 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 actual colors of the new *Osteospermum* plant.

The photograph at the bottom of the sheet comprises a side perspective view of a typical plant of 'Inostepink' grown in a container.

The photograph at the top of the sheet is a close-up view of a typical flowering plant of 'Inostepink'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The aforementioned photographs and following observations and measurements describe plants grown during the winter and early spring in 11.5-cm containers in an acrylic-covered greenhouse in Carleton, Mich. and under cultural practices typical of commercial *Osteospermum* production. During the production of the plants, day and night temperatures ranged from 18° C. to 24° C. Plants were eleven weeks old when the photographs and description were 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: *Osteospermum ecklonis* 'Inostepink'.

Parentage:

Female parent.—Proprietary selection of *Osteospermum ecklonis* identified as code number O 13 206-2, not patented.

Male parent.—Proprietary selection of *Osteospermum ecklonis* identified as code number O 12 223-3, not patented.

Propagation:

Type.—Terminal cuttings.

Time to initiate roots, summer.—About six to eight days at ambient temperatures ranging from 24° C. to 27° C.

Time to initiate roots, winter.—About seven to nine days at ambient temperatures ranging from 17° C. to 24° C.

Time to produce a rooted young plant, summer.—About four weeks at ambient temperatures ranging from 24° C. to 27° C.

Time to produce a rooted young plant, winter.—About five weeks at ambient temperatures ranging from 17° C. to 21° C.

Root description.—Medium in thickness, fibrous; typically white in color, actual color of the roots is dependent on substrate composition, water quality, fertilizers, substrate temperature and age of roots.

Rooting habit.—Moderately freely branching; medium density.

Plant description:

Plant and growth habit.—Upright and mounding plant habit; inflorescences positioned above and beyond the foliar plane on strong peduncles; moderately vigorous to vigorous growth habit; moderate growth rate.

Plant height, soil level to top of foliar plane.—About 16 cm.

Plant height, soil level to top of floral plane.—About 29.5 cm.

Plant diameter.—About 32 cm.

Lateral branches.—Quantity per plant: Freely branching habit with about 16 primary branches developing per plant, each primary branch with one or two secondary branches. Length: About 9.5 cm. Diameter: About 2 mm. Internode length: About 6 mm to 18 mm. Strength: Strong. Aspect: About 45° to 60° from vertical. Texture and luster: Scattered pubescence; matte. Color, developing and fully developed: Close to 146C.

Leaf description.—Arrangement: Alternate, simple. Length: About 6.4 cm. Width: About 4.3 cm. Shape: Oblong. Apex: Broadly acute; reflexing with development. Base: Attenuate. Margin: Mostly entire; often with five to seven shallow points. Texture and luster, upper surface: Scattered pubescence; slightly glossy. Texture and luster, lower surface: Scattered pubescence; matte. Venation pattern: Pinnate, arcuate and reticulate. Color: Developing leaves, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 146B. Fully expanded leaves, upper surface: Close to N137A; venation, close to 146B. Fully expanded leaves, lower surface: Close to N137B; venation, close to 146C. Petioles: Length: About 2 cm. Diameter: About 4 mm. Strength: Moderately strong. Texture and luster, upper and lower surfaces: Scattered pubescence; slightly glossy. Color, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 146C.

Inflorescence description:

Appearance.—Daisy-type inflorescence form with ligulate-shaped ray florets; inflorescences terminal and axillary and positioned above and beyond the foliar plane on strong peduncles; disc and ray florets developing acropetally on a capitulum; inflorescences face mostly upright.

Flowering habit.—Freely flowering habit with about 27 inflorescences developing per plant at one time.

Fragrance.—None detected.

Flowering response.—Plants of the new *Osteospermum* flower early and continuously from spring until frost; long flowering period; plants begin flowering about six weeks after planting.

Inflorescence longevity.—Inflorescences of plants of the new *Osteospermum* last about one week on the plant; inflorescences persistent.

Inflorescence buds.—Height: About 2.2 cm. Diameter: About 1.6 cm. Shape: Elongated ovate. Texture and luster: Smooth, glabrous; matte. Color: Close to 160A.

Inflorescence size.—Diameter: Large, about 6.7 cm. Depth (height): About 2.5 cm. Disc diameter: About 1.5 cm. Receptacle diameter: About 2.2 mm. Receptacle height: About 1.1 cm. Receptacle color: Close to 146A.

Ray florets.—Quantity per inflorescence and arrangement: About 24 arranged in two whorls. Length: About 3.4 cm. Width: About 9 mm. Shape: Ligulate. Apex: Shallow emarginate. Base: Attenuate. Margin: Entire. Aspect: Initially about 35° from vertical becoming mostly horizontal when fully developed. Texture and luster, upper surface: Smooth, glabrous; velvety; matte. Texture and luster, lower surface: Longitudinally ridged, glabrous; velvety; moderately glossy. Color: When opening, upper surface: Close to 76B to 76C. When opening, lower surface: Close to 160B, 160C to 160D. Fully opened, upper surface: Close to 75C; towards the apices, close to 72C; towards the base, close to 72B; venation, close to 72B to 72C; color does not change with development. Fully opened, lower surface: Close to N170D; towards the apices, close to 177D; venation, close to 177D.

Disc florets.—Quantity per inflorescence and arrangement: About 78 spirally arranged in about nine whorls at the center of the receptacle. Length: About 1 cm. Diameter, apex: About 3 mm. Diameter, base: About 1 mm. Shape: Tubular; apex, five-pointed with acute points. Texture and luster, inner surface: Smooth, glabrous; matte. Texture and luster, outer

surface: Minute pubescence; matte. Color, immature, inner surface: Close to N77B. Color, immature, outer surface: Close to 77D. Color, mature, inner surface: Close to 77B; venation, close to 77B. Color, mature, outer surface: Close to 84C; venation, close to 84C.

Phyllaries.—Quantity per inflorescence and arrangement: About 18 arranged in a single whorl. Length: About 1.1 cm. Width: About 1 mm. Shape: Lanceolate. Apex: Acute. Base: Truncate, fused. Margin: Entire. Texture and luster, upper surface: Smooth, glabrous; matte. Texture and luster, lower surface: Minute pubescence; matte. Color, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 146A.

Peduncles.—Length: About 18.2 cm. Diameter: About 2 mm. Strength: Strong. Aspect: About 45° from vertical. Texture and luster: Minute pubescent; minute; matte. Color: Close to 146B.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium: Present on disc florets only. Quantity per floret: About five. Filament length: About 2 mm. Filament color: Close to N155D. Anther shape: Lanceolate. Anther size: About 1 mm by 4 mm. Anther color: Close to 187A. Pollen amount: Scarce. Pollen color: Close to 163B. Gynoecium: Present on both ray and disc florets. Pistil length: About 7 mm. Stigma diameter: About 1 mm. Stigma shape: Bi-parted. Stigma color: Close to 187A. Style length: About 3 mm. Style color: Close to 187D. Ovary color: Close to 145A.

Seeds and fruits.—To date, seed and fruit development has not been observed on plants of the new *Osteospermum*.

Disease & pest resistance: To date, plants of the new *Osteospermum* have not been shown to be resistant to pathogens and pests common to *Osteospermum* plants.

Garden performance: Plants of the new *Osteospermum* have been observed to have good summer garden performance and to tolerate rain, wind and to be suitable for USDA Hardiness Zones 9a to 11b.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct *Osteospermum* plant named 'Inos-tepink' as illustrated and described.

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