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Hoogkamp

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(54) ***SPATHIPHYLLUM* PLANT NAMED
'SPAAMERIGRO'**

(50) Latin Name: *Spathiphyllum* Schott.
Varietal Denomination: **Spaamerigro**

(71) Applicant: **Timothy Johan Herman Hoogkamp,**
Doetinchem (NL)

(72) Inventor: **Timothy Johan Herman Hoogkamp,**
Doetinchem (NL)

(73) Assignee: **NUBULUS B.V.,** Naaldwijk (NL)

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Primary Examiner — Keith O. Robinson

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — C. A. Whealy

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Spathiphyllum* plant named
'Spaamerigro', characterized by its upright, outwardly arch-
ing and uniform plant habit; freely clumping growth habit;
bushy and dense plants; glossy dark green-colored leaves;
freely flowering habit; large white-colored spathes that are
positioned just above and in between the foliar plane on
strong and erect scapes; and good inflorescence longevity.

2 Drawing Sheets

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Botanical designation: *Spathiphyllum* Schott.
Cultivar denomination: 'SPAAMERIGRO'.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

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

The new *Spathiphyllum* plant is a product of a controlled
breeding program conducted by the Inventor in Naaldwijk,
The Netherlands. The objective of the breeding program is
to create new year-round flowering *Spathiphyllum* plants
that have glossy dark green-colored leaves, large white-
colored spathes and good postproduction longevity.

The new *Spathiphyllum* plant originated from a cross-
pollination made by the Inventor in September, 2012 of a
proprietary selection of *Spathiphyllum* Schott. identified as
code number 20121408-01, not patented, as the female, or
seed, parent with a proprietary selection of *Spathiphyllum*
Schott. identified as code number 20092518-39, not pat-
ented, as the male, or pollen, parent. The new *Spathiphyllum*
plant was discovered and selected by the Inventor as a single
plant within the progeny of the stated cross-pollination in a
controlled greenhouse environment in Naaldwijk, The Neth-
erlands in October, 2013.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Spathiphyllum* plant by
in vitro meristem culture in a controlled environment in
Naaldwijk, The Netherlands since October, 2013 has shown
that the unique features of this new *Spathiphyllum* plant are
stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations
of asexual reproduction.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Plants of the new *Spathiphyllum* have not been observed
under all possible combinations of environmental conditions

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and cultural practices. The phenotype may vary somewhat
with variations in environmental conditions such as tem-
perature 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 'Spaameri-
gro'. These characteristics in combination distinguish
'Spaamerigro' as a new and distinct *Spathiphyllum* plant:

1. Upright, outwardly arching and uniform plant habit.
2. Freely clumping growth habit; bushy and dense plants.
3. Glossy dark green-colored leaves.
4. Freely flowering habit.
5. Large white-colored spathes that are positioned just
above and in between the foliar plane on strong and
erect scapes.
6. Good inflorescence longevity.

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

1. Plants of the new *Spathiphyllum* are larger than plants
of the female parent selection.
2. Plants of the new *Spathiphyllum* have larger inflores-
cences than plants of the female parent selection.

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

1. Leaves of plants of the new *Spathiphyllum* are darker
green in color than leaves of plants of the male parent
selection.
2. Leaves of plants of the new *Spathiphyllum* are more
durable than leaves of plants of the male parent selec-
tion.

Plants of the new *Spathiphyllum* can also be compared to
plants of *Spathiphyllum* Schott. 'Sparanke', disclosed in
U.S. Plant Pat. No. 21,294. In side-by-side comparisons,

plants of the new *Spathiphyllum* differ from plants of ‘Sparanke’ in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Spathiphyllum* are denser and bushier than plants of ‘Sparanke’.
2. Leaf margins of plants of the new *Spathiphyllum* are slightly undulate whereas leaf margins of plants of ‘Sparanke’ are not undulate.
3. Scapes of plants of the new *Spathiphyllum* are shorter than scapes of plants of ‘Sparanke’.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

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

The photograph on the first sheet is a side perspective view of a typical plant of ‘Spaamerigro’ grown in a container.

The photograph on the second sheet is a close-up view of a typical inflorescence of ‘Spaamerigro’.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The aforementioned photographs and following observations and measurements describe plants grown during the spring in 14-cm containers in a glass-covered greenhouse in Naaldwijk, The Netherlands and under cultural practices typical of commercial *Spathiphyllum* production. During the production of the plants, day temperatures ranged from 22° C. to 28° C., night temperatures ranged from 20° C. to 22° C. and light levels averaged 5 klux. Plants were 18 weeks old when the photographs and the detailed description were taken. 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: *Spathiphyllum* Schott. ‘Spaamerigro’.

Parentage:

Female, or seed, parent.—Proprietary selection of *Spathiphyllum* Schott. identified as code number 20121408-01, not patented.

Male, or pollen, parent.—Proprietary selection of *Spathiphyllum* Schott. identified as code number 20092518-39, not patented.

Propagation:

Type.—By in vitro meristem culture.

Time to initiate roots, summer.—About twelve days at temperatures about 23° C.

Time to initiate roots, winter.—About 13 days at temperatures about 23° C.

Time to produce a rooted young plant, summer.—About 215 days at temperatures about 21° C.

Time to produce a rooted young plant, winter.—About 240 days at temperatures about 21° C.

Root description.—Medium in thickness, 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.

Rooting habit.—Moderately branching, medium density.

Plant description:

Plant and growth habit.—Upright and outwardly arching plant habit; overall plant shape, broadly inverted triangle; moderately vigorous growth habit; moderate growth rate.

Clumping habit.—Freely clumping habit, bushy and dense growth habit; about twelve clumps develop per plant.

Plant height, from soil level to top of leaf plane.—About 42.2 cm.

Plant height, from soil level to top of inflorescences.—About 63 cm.

Plant diameter or spread.—About 61.2 cm.

Leaf description.—Arrangement: Alternate; simple.

Length: About 29.7 cm. Width: About 13 cm. Shape: Ovate. Apex: Apiculate. Base: Short attenuate. Margin: Entire; slightly undulate. Texture and luster, upper surface: Smooth, glabrous; glossy. Texture and luster, lower surface: Smooth, glabrous; moderately glossy. Venation pattern: Pinnate. Color: Developing leaves, upper surface: More intense than 143A. Developing leaves, lower surface: Close to between 138B and 146B. Fully expanded leaves, upper surface: Close to NN137A; venation, close to 137A to 137B. Fully expanded leaves, lower surface: Close to 137B; venation, close to 144A. Petioles: Length (excluding geniculum): About 20.2 cm. Diameter, just below geniculum: About 4 mm. Diameter, at plant base: About 1.2 cm. Strength: Strong. Texture and luster, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous; slightly glossy. Color, upper and lower surfaces: Slightly more yellow green than NN137A. Geniculum length: About 2.7 cm. Geniculum diameter: About 4.5 mm. Geniculum texture and luster, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous; slightly glossy. Geniculum color, upper surface: Close to 137B. Geniculum color, lower surface: Close to 137B; at the leaf base, close to 143C. Wing length: About 19.4 cm to 20.7 cm. Wing diameter: About 1 cm. Wing color: Close to 144B; towards the margins, close to between 144C and 144D; fading towards the petiole to close to 143A.

Inflorescence description:

Inflorescence arrangement and flowering habit.—Moderately to strongly cupped erect spathes with columnar spadices held above and in between the foliar plane on strong and erect scapes; flowering structures arise from leaf axils; plants begin flowering about 16 weeks after planting; freely and continuous flowering year-round under greenhouse conditions in The Netherlands; freely flowering habit, typically about 13 inflorescences develop per plant.

Fragrance.—Moderately fragrant; fragrance, sweet and pleasant.

Inflorescence longevity.—Inflorescences last more than three weeks on the plant; inflorescences persistent.

Spathe.—Length: About 16.2 cm. Width: About 6 cm. Depth: About 3.7 cm. Shape: Ovate to elliptic. Apex: Apiculate; twisting and curled. Base: Attenuate. Margin: Entire; very slightly and coarsely undulate. Texture and luster, front surface: Smooth, glabrous; slightly leathery; slightly glossy. Texture and luster, rear surface: Smooth, glabrous; slightly leathery; moderately glossy. Color: When developing, front surface: Close to 155B; fading towards the apex to

close to 157D; apex, close to 144B. When developing, rear surface: Close to NN155A; towards the apex and main vein, close to 144A to 144B. Fully developed, front surface: Close to NN155A; towards the apex, close to 143A to 143B; with development, color becoming closer to 145A to 145B. Fully developed, rear surface: Close to between NN155A and NN155B; towards the apex and main vein, close to 143A to 143B; with development, color becoming closer to 145A to 145B.

Spadix.—Length: About 4.9 cm. Diameter: About 1.4 cm. Shape: Columnar, tapering towards the apex; apex, obtuse; base, obtuse; cross-section, rounded. Aspect: Close to erect, about 5° from scape axis. Color, immature: Close to 157D. Color, mature: Close to between 155A and 157D. Flowers: Quantity per spadix: Numerous, about 140. Shape: Rounded. Height: About 3 mm. Diameter: About 4 mm. Anther color: Close to NN155B to NN155C. Pollen amount:

Moderate. Pollen color: Close to 155B. Stigma color: Close to 158D. Ovary color: Close to 158D.

Scapes.—Length: About 48.9 cm. Diameter: About 5 mm. Strength: Strong. Aspect: Erect. Texture and luster: Smooth, glabrous; moderately glossy. Color: Close to 143A.

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

Disease & pest resistance: To date, plants of the new *Spathiphyllum* have not been observed to be resistant to pathogens or pests common to *Spathiphyllum* plants.

Temperature tolerance: Plants of the new *Spathiphyllum* have been observed to be tolerant to temperatures ranging from about 5° C. to about 40° C. and to be suitable for USDA Hardiness Zones 10 to 13.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct *Spathiphyllum* plant named 'Spaamerigro' as illustrated and described.

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