



US00PP32314P3

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

(10) **Patent No.:** **US PP32,314 P3**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Oct. 13, 2020**

(54) **RHODODENDRON PLANT NAMED**
'KURAANGEL'

(50) Latin Name: *Rhododendron* hybrid
Varietal Denomination: **Kuraangel**

(71) Applicant: **Kabushiki Gaisha Akatsuka Garden**
Co., Ltd., Tsu-shi, Mie-ken (JP)

(72) Inventor: **Yukio Kurabayashi**, Tsu (JP)

(73) Assignee: **KABUSHIKI GAISHA AKATSUKA**
GARDEN CO., LTD., Tsu-Shi,
Mie-Ken (JP)

(*) 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.: **16/501,344**

(22) Filed: **Mar. 28, 2019**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2019/0394919 P1 Dec. 26, 2019

(30) **Foreign Application Priority Data**

Jun. 20, 2018 (JP) PBR 33197

(51) **Int. Cl.**
A01H 5/02 (2018.01)
A01H 6/36 (2018.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
USPC **Plt./238**
CPC *A01H 6/364* (2018.05)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
USPC Plt./238, 239, 240
CPC A01H 5/02; A01H 5/00
See application file for complete search history.

Primary Examiner — Kent L Bell

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Cantor Colburn LLP

(57) **ABSTRACT**

The present invention relates to a new and distinct variety of
plant named 'Kuraangel'. The variety is botanically identi-
fied as *Rhododendron* hybrid. The new variety is distin-
guished from other varieties by a number of properties,
including but not limited to, corolla lobe color.

5 Drawing Sheets

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Latin name of the plant claimed: The variety is botanically
identified as *Rhododendron* hybrid.

**CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED
APPLICATION**

This application claims benefit of Japanese Plant Variety
Protection Application No. 33197, filed on Jun. 20, 2018,
which is incorporated herein in its entirety.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The new variety 'Kuraangel' originated from the con-
trolled cross of the plants 'Wedding Bouquet' and 'Purple
Splendor' performed in April 2003 in Anoucho, Tsu-shi,
Mie-ken, Japan. In 2007, the new variety having large pink,
nicely shaped flowers with beautiful spots was discovered
and selected by the Inventor as a single flowering plant
within the progeny of the stated controlled cross-pollination
in Anoucho, Tsu-shi, Mie-ken, Japan. As a result of tissue
cultures in 2012 and trial production in the field, 'Kuraangel'
was determined as being an excellent variety with beautiful
blooms in 2016, and breeding was completed.

SUMMARY

The present invention relates to a new and distinct variety
of plant named 'Kuraangel'. The variety is botanically
identified as *Rhododendron* hybrid. The new variety is
distinguished from other varieties by a number of charac-
teristics as set forth below.

When compared to the 'Mrs. Fujii' (not patented) variety
having blossoms with a primary color that is pale pink,
almost white (R.H.S. colour chart N74D) and a secondary

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color that is a very pale purple (R.H.S. colour chart 76D), the
blossoms of the new variety of the present invention,
'Kuraangel' do not have a secondary color and exhibit
attractive blossoms with a single light purple color (R.H.S.
colour chart N75B) with strong independent spots (R.H.S.
colour chart 42A). The annual blooming time for 'Kuraan-
gel' is about 10 days later than 'Mrs. Fujii'. 'Kuraangel' has
larger and particularly longer leaves (about 12 centimeters
(cm) in length and about 3.5 cm in width) compared to 'Mrs.
Fujii' (about 10 cm in length and about 2.5 cm in width). The
branch color of a one-year old plant of 'Kuraangel' is pale
green (R.H.S. colour chart 143C), whereas the branch color
of a one-year old plant of 'Mrs. Fujii' is dark red purple,
almost brown (R.H.S. colour chart 180A). 'Kuraangel' has
a smaller truss size (about 15 cm in diameter and about 15
cm in height) than 'Mrs. Fujii' (about 25 cm in diameter and
about 20 cm in height). 'Kuraangel' has fewer corolla per
truss, about 12, than 'Mrs. Fujii', about 15, but the size of
the corolla of 'Kuraangel' is similar (about 10 cm in length,
about 10 cm in height, and about 7 cm in thickness) to 'Mrs.
Fujii' (about 10 cm in length, about 10 cm in height, and
about 5 cm in thickness). Strong independent spots are
present on the surface of the corolla of 'Kuraangle', whereas
spots are absent on 'Mrs. Fujii'.

'Kuraangel' can be compared to its female parent 'Wed-
ding Bouquet' (Japanese Plant Variety Protection Applica-
tion No. 13565, filed on Jun. 18, 2001, Registration No.
13397), and its male parent 'Purple Splendor' (not patented).
'Wedding Bouquet' has white flowers that bloom on April
10. 'Purple Splendor' has dark purple flowers that bloom on
May 5. In contrast, 'Kuraangel' has light purple color

flowers (R.H.S. colour chart N75B) with strong independent spots (R.H.S. colour chart 42A) that bloom on April 15.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying photographs show typical specimens of the new variety, including foliage and flowers, in color as nearly true as it is reasonably possible to make in color illustrations of these characteristics.

FIG. 1 illustrates the upper side of the flowers and the plant;

FIG. 2 illustrates a full view of the cultivation area showing the leaves of the plant;

FIG. 3 illustrates a close-up of the flower;

FIG. 4 illustrates a close-up of the dissected flower; and

FIG. 5 illustrates, for comparison, the upper side of the flowers and the plant of 'Mrs. Fujii'.

DESCRIPTION OF THE VARIETY

The following detailed description of the new variety is based upon observations taken of plants grown in Anoucho, Tsu-shi, Mie-ken, Japan. Observations of 'Kuraangel' were taken during the 2007 growing season.

In the following description, color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society (R.H.S.) Colour Chart, except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

Botanical classification: *Rhododendrum* hybrid.

Principle use: Flowering shrub for potted plant and open-field cultivation.

Parentage: The female parent is 'Wedding Bouquet', and the male parent 'Purple Splendor'.

Propagation: The new variety was propagated using tissue cultures from plants potted in greenhouse facilities in Anoucho, Tsu-shi, Mie-ken, Japan. Growth points were collected from lateral buds of shoots, and cultivation and growth were performed without using calli.

Plant:

Size.—At 3 years of age, plants of the new variety commonly exhibit a height of approximately 40-50 cm and a width of 30 cm.

Habit.—Vigorous and compact.

Foliage:

Arrangement.—Foliage arrangements are pseudover-ticillate or false verticillate, appearing whorled or verticillate, but not actually so.

Type.—Evergreen flowering shrub, simple lanceolate leaves with an obtuse leaf base, oblong body, acute apex, and obtuse margins. The upper surfaces of the leaves appear semi-glossy, and the bottom surfaces of the leaves appear matte.

Venation.—Leaves have a netted (reticulate) venation pattern. R.H.S. colour chart 150D on the upper surface of the leaves, and R.H.S. colour chart 150C on the bottom surface.

Size.—Mature leaves growing midway up the stem commonly are approximately 12 cm in length and approximately 3.5 cm in width.

Color.—R.H.S. colour chart NN137B on the upper surface, and R.H.S. colour chart 143C on the under surface.

Petioles:

Size.—2.0 cm in length, and 3.0 millimeters (mm) in diameter.

Texture.—Rough with bristles.

Color.—R.H.S. colour chart 58B.

Branches:

Size.—Mature lateral branches (one-year old wood) are 2.0 m in length and 7.0 mm in diameter.

Internode length.—Mature lateral branches (one year old wood) have a 1.0 cm internode length.

Texture.—Mature lateral branches (one year old wood) are rough with bristles.

Color.—Mature lateral branches (one-year old wood) — R.H.S. colour chart 143C.

Peduncles:

Size.—Approximately 3.0 cm in length and 2.5 mm in diameter.

Color.—R.H.S. colour chart 178B.

Petals:

Shape.—Petals are generally wavy with a connected base and sharply pointed apex.

Size.—Approximately 8.0 cm in length and 4.0 cm in width.

Texture.—Both surfaces of the petals are generally smooth.

Sepals: None.

Flowers:

Period.—Blooms approximately April 15 in the evening when cultured at Anoucho, Tsu-shi, Mie-ken, Japan.

Appearance.—Corymb.

Arrangement.—Spheroidal.

Truss shape.—Generally a sphere.

Truss size.—Approximately 15 cm diameter, and approximately 15 cm in height.

Corolla per truss.—Approximately 12.

Corolla shape.—Open funnel shape.

Corolla size.—Approximately 10 cm in length, 10 cm in width, and 7 cm in thickness.

Number of lobes.—Five lobes per floret.

Margin of lobes.—Wavy to frilly.

Fragrance.—None.

Calyx size.—Approximately 2 millimeters (mm) in length.

Flower bud shape.—Lacrimoid.

Flower bud size.—Approximately 4.0 mm in length and 2.5 cm in diameter.

Flower bud color.—R.H.S. colour chart 75A.

Flower color.—One color on the surface of the corolla lobe, with the same color on both the upper and lower surfaces. The surfaces of the corolla lobe is light purple (R.H.S. colour chart N75B). Strong, independent spots (R.H.S. colour chart 42A) are present on the throat of the corolla lobe.

Reproductive organs:

Stamen number.—10.

Filament length.—Approximately 5.0 cm.

Filament color.—R.H.S. colour chart 155C.

Anther shape.—Barrel shaped.

Anther length.—Approximately 2.0 mm.

Anther color.—R.H.S. colour chart 155A.

Pollen amount and color.—High pollen count and R.H.S. colour chart 155A.

Pistil length.—Approximately 4.5 cm.

Stigma shape.—Captiform.

Stigma color.—R.H.S. colour chart 159A.

Style length.—Approximately 4.0 cm.

Style color.—R.H.S. colour chart 155D.

Ovary color.—R.H.S. colour chart 178A.

Winter hardiness: Has survived winters with temperatures as low as -3° C. in Anoucho, Tsu-shi, Mie-ken, Japan.

Disease resistance: During observations to date, the foliage has been disease resistant. Although generally, *Rhododendron* hybrid plants are prone to root rot disease, which

tends to occur in high temperatures, 'Kuraangel' is resistant to root rot because it is resistant to high temperatures. Successive generations: Reproduces true to type in successive generations as set forth above.

What is claimed is:

1. A new and distinct variety of *Rhododendron* hybrid plant, substantially as shown and described.

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FIG. 1

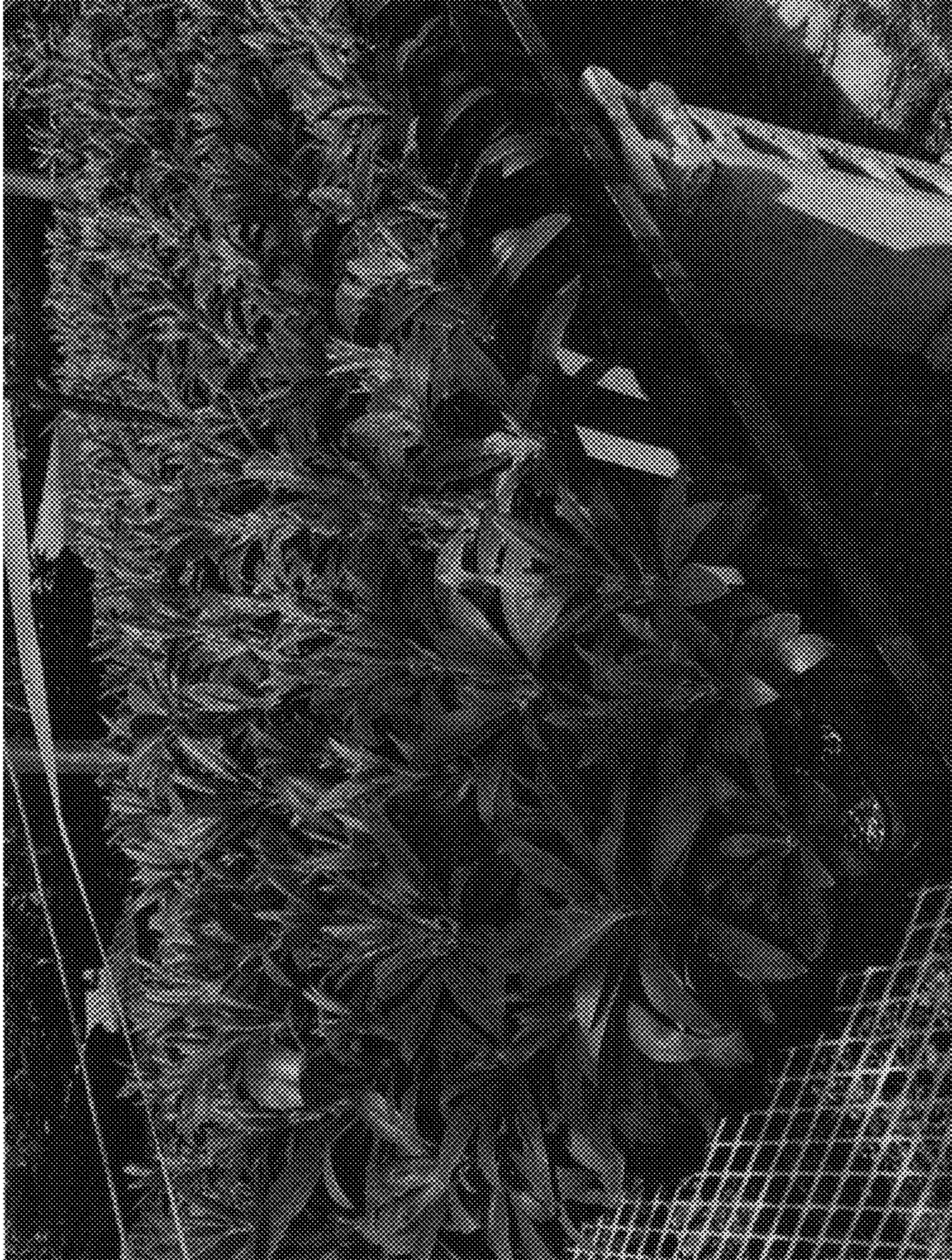


FIG. 2



FIG. 3

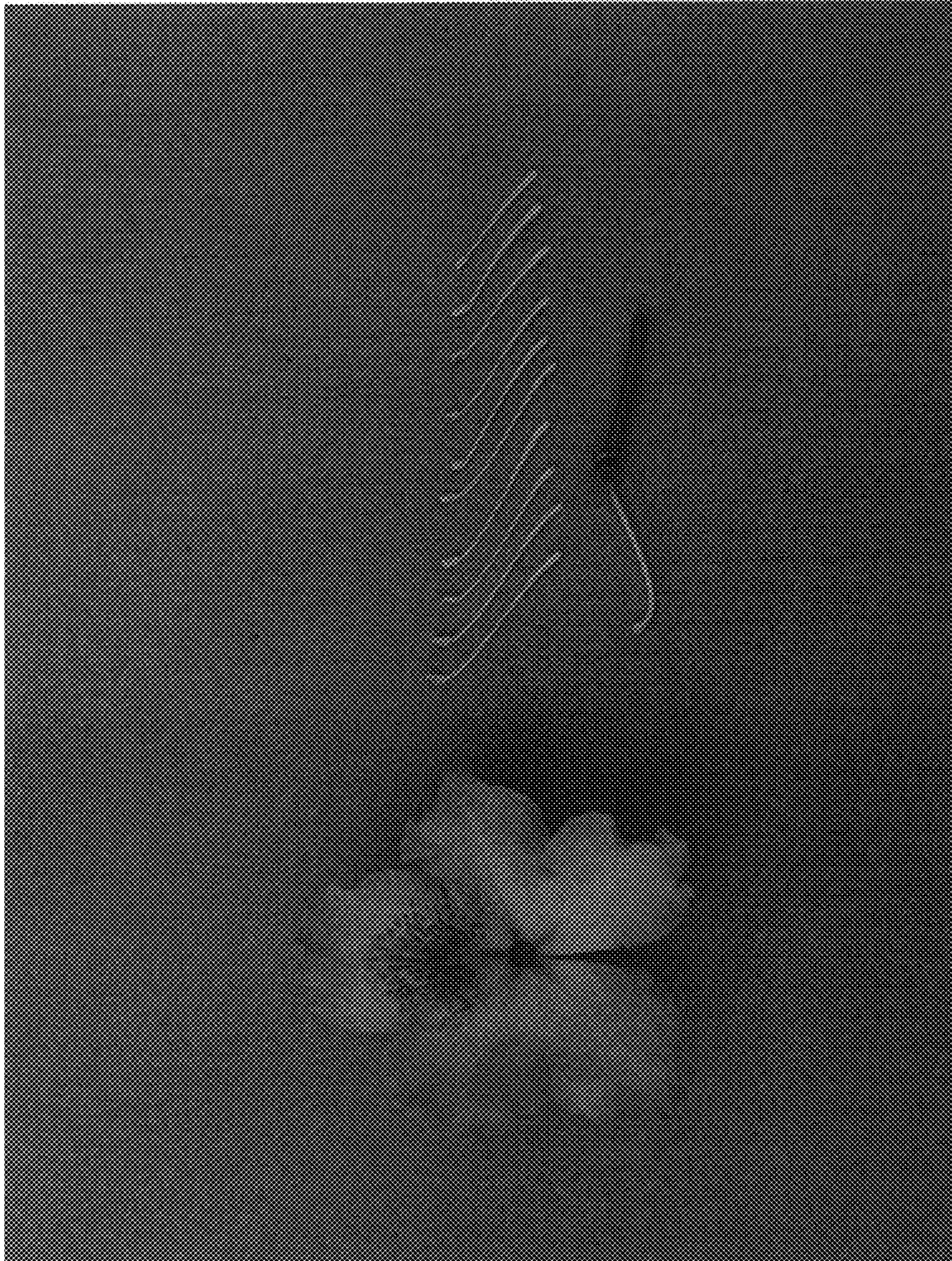


FIG. 4



FIG. 5