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**(12) United States Plant Patent
Higaki****(10) Patent No.: US PP33,018 P3****(45) Date of Patent: May 4, 2021**(54) *HYDRANGEA* PLANT NAMED 'BCHY-14.020'(50) Latin Name: *Hydrangea macrophylla* (Thunb.)Varietal Denomination: **BCHY-14.020**(71) Applicant: **Harrison Higaki**, San Mateo, CA (US)(72) Inventor: **Harrison Higaki**, San Mateo, CA (US)(73) Assignee: **Syngenta Flowers, LLC.**, Gilroy, CA (US)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

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See application file for complete search history.*Primary Examiner* — Anne Marie Grunberg(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Dale Skalla**(57) ABSTRACT**A new and distinct cultivar of *Hydrangea macrophylla* (Thunb.) plant named 'BCHY-14.020' originated as a controlled cross between varieties. The variety 'BCHY-14.020' has attractive inflorescences with sepalous florets with attractive sepal pigmentation and good commercial characteristics.**3 Drawing Sheets****1**Botanical classification: *Hydrangea macrophylla* (Thunb.) 'BCHY-14.020'.

Variety denomination: 'BCHY-14.020'.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTIONThis invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of the Saxifragaceae family. The botanical name of the plant is *Hydrangea macrophylla* (Thunb.) 'BCHY-14.020'.

The new cultivar originated as a seedling from a controlled cross between a variety known to the inventor as 'BC6.8' which was the seed parent and the commercial variety known as 'Oslo' which was the pollen parent. 'BC6.8' was the subject of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/135,035 which became U.S. Plant Pat. No. 24,144. 'BC6.8' originated as a seedling from a controlled cross between the unpatented variety known as 'LK49' which was the seed parent and a commercial variety known as 'Venedig' to the inventor which may be the subject of U.S. Plant Pat. No. 10,928 and registered as 'Venice Raven'. 'Venedig' was the pollen parent of that cross. 'LK49' is relatively compact plant with wiry stems, relatively small leaves, relatively small sepalous florets, and inflorescences that are resistant to being damaged by conditions in commercial coolers. The applicant is unaware as to whether the commercial variety known as 'Oslo' is the subject of a patent in the United States or a foreign country or protected as a plant variety in the United States or a foreign country. No observations of the parent 'Oslo' were made.

The variety 'BCHY-14.020' has sepalous florets with somewhat variegated sepal pigmentation at maturity and good commercial characteristics, including strong stems, a propensity to branch when pinched and a propensity to set

2inflorescences on each stem and lateral branch. The color of the sepals changes as the plant ages. The plant is similar to U.S. Plant Pat. No. 23,757 entitled *Hydrangea* Plant named 'BC6.1'. Below is a table comparing the new variety to similar varieties.**TABLE 1**

	New Variety 'BCHY-14.020'	U.S. Plant Pat. No. 24,144 'BC6.8'	U.S. Plant Pat. No. 23,757 'BC6.1'	Commercial variety 'Venedig' which may be U.S. Plant Pat. No. 10,928 'Venice Raven'
Leaf size	9.0 cm wide × 13.5 cm long	9 cm × 13 cm	13 cm wide × 16 cm long	11 cm wide × 15.5 cm long - source U.S. Plant Pat. 10,928
Plant height	13" in 6" pot.	13" in 6" pot.	15" in 6" pot	12" in 6" pot - observed controls grown alongside 'BC6.1'.
Stem strength	Strong	Strong	Stems are strong but benefit from being staked	Strong - observed controls grown alongside 'BC6.1'.
Sepal Pigmentation	Upper sides of sepals are R.H.S. 96 C (violet - blue group) at their centers and R.H.S 83 B (violet group)	Both sides of sepals are R.H.S. 71 A (red-purple group).	Upper sides of sepals are R.H.S. 86 A (violet group); Under sides of sepals are R.H.S. 88 D (violet	Upper side of sepals is R.H.S. 84 A (violet group). Under side of sepals is R.H.S. 85 A (violet group) observed controls grown

TABLE 1-continued

New Variety	U.S. Plant Pat.	U.S. Plant Pat.	Commerical variety 'Venedig' which may be U.S. Plant Pat.
'BCHY-14.020'	No. 24,144 'BC6.8'	No. 23,757 'BC6.1'	No. 10,928 'Venice Raven'
at their margins, and under sides of sepals are R.H.S. 88 B (violet - blue group).		group)	alongside 'BC6.1'.
Sepalous Floret Size - Diameter	70 mm	70 mm	60 mm to 70 mm
			70 mm - observed controls grown alongside 'BC6.1'.

The new cultivar 'BCHY-14.020' has been successfully asexually reproduced under controlled environmental conditions at a nursery in Half Moon Bay, Calif. under the direction of the inventor with its distinguishing characteristics remaining stable.

Asexual reproduction was first accomplished when vegetative cuttings were used from the initially selected plant. Examination of asexually reproduced, successive generations grown in Half Moon Bay, Calif. show that the combination of characteristics as herein disclosed for 'BCHY-14.020' remains firmly fixed.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying drawings consist of color photographs that show the typical plant form at 1 year when grown in a commercial nursery and forced to bloom, including the inflorescence, foliage, and sepals.

FIG. 1 is a side view of an entire plant treated with aluminum showing its form, growth habit, dark green foliage, inflorescence, and the color of its sepals.

FIG. 2 is a top view of an entire plant treated with aluminum.

FIG. 3 is a view of the base of the plant treated with aluminum. is a side view of entire plant treated with aluminum.

FIG. 4 is a close-up view of the underside of a panicle of a plant treated with aluminum.

FIG. 5 is a top view of the upper side of a leaf of a plant treated with aluminum.

FIG. 6 is a top view of an entire plant treated with aluminum grown in a different cycle than the plant shown in FIGS. 1-5.

DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW PLANT

The plants described are approximately a year old. The plant started out as cuttings, used from the stem of a grown plant. The plants shown were pinched early in their development to promote lateral branches. All of the plants pictured had soil that was periodically treated with aluminum. The plant shown in FIG. 6 was grown in a different cycle than the plants shown in FIGS. 1-5. All measurements and color determinations provided are based on the plant shown in FIGS. 1-5.

'BCHY-14.020' has not been observed under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary significantly with variations in environment. Color determinations were made with The Royal Horticultural Society (R.H.S.) Colour Chart, developed in association with the Flower Council of Holland, located in Lieden.

THE PLANT

Origin: Controlled cross. The new cultivar originated as a seedling from a controlled cross between the patented variety 'BC6.8'—U.S. Plant Pat. No. 24,144—which was the seed parent, and the commercial variety 'Oslo' which was the pollen parent.

Form: Upright, non-climbing, compact shrub. The mature plant with a mature inflorescence that is ready for sale is approximately 13" high and has a diameter of 15" when grown in a 6" pot with appropriate soil amendments.

Growth: Upright, vigorous growth habit. Inflorescence is medium to large. The plant branches easily with shoots forming at the base of the plant. Lateral branches are similar in appearance and form to the main stems.

Stems: Lenticels are present. Stem lengths are approximately 9". Fasciation is absent. Lenticels are R.H.S. 86 A (violet group) and are 1 to 3 mm long. The surface of young stems is glabrous. Stems become woody as they age. The color of typical young stems and young lateral branches is R.H.S. 144 A (yellow-green group). The older portions of the stems are R.H.S. 199 A (grey-brown group). Younger portions of the stems are 7 mm in diameter. Older portions of the stems are 7 mm in diameter.

Foliage: Abundant. Leaves are opposite on stem and lateral branches.

Shape of leaf.—Elliptic with acute base and acute apex. Tips of leaves are 10 mm long. Margins are serrate and not lobed.

Texture.—Glabrous; veins dominate on the underside of the leaf and are sunken on the upper leaf surface. The upper side of the leaf is moderately glossy. Variegation is absent.

Color.—Mature leaves have an upper side that is R.H.S. 136 A (green group), and an under side that is R.H.S. 137 C (green group). Leaves are pinnately veined. The midvein and veins branching off the midvein are large and prominent on the underside of the leaves. Veins are R.H.S. 145 C (yellow-green group). Leaves are as wide as 10.0 cm and 15 cm long. Petioles are smooth and approximately 2.5 cm long and 4 mm wide. Petioles are R.H.S. 145 C (yellow-green group).

BUDS

Form: Globose with 4 to 5 connate, elliptic, smooth petals. The terminal and later-developing buds of the panicles are non-sepalous. The majority of buds will develop into sepalous florets. The buds are approximately 2 mm by 2 mm when very young. Buds can be 5 mm in diameter and still unopened. Color of mature buds is R.H.S. 96 A (violet-blue group).

Aspect: Smooth.

Arrangement: Borne on branched panicles.

INFLORESCENCE

Form: Paniculate. Terminal. As many as 70 individual florets (both sepalous and non-sepalous) per inflorescence. Both sepalous florets and non-sepalous florets are borne on the same panicle. Non-sepalous florets are inconspicuous. Flowers do not produce a fragrance. The peduncle for the inflorescence is strong and upright. There are very few non-sepalous florets. The non-sepalous florets are located at the terminal portion of the panicle and are later hidden by sepalous florets. Florets, both sepalous and non-sepalous, have anthers and style. Inflorescences are long-lasting. Florets near terminal floret have less developed sepals and are less pigmented.

Size of inflorescence: Medium. Individual inflorescence size is dependent on the number of florets. A typical inflorescence can grow as large as 8" in diameter, and 4" high.

Shape: Globose. Clusters of numerous small florets; sepalous florets overlap one another. Sepals are persistent.

Appearance: Showy.

FLORETS

General: The non-sepalous florets at the center of the panicles open first. Sepalous and non-sepalous florets are perfect and complete. Corolla: Generally, for both sepalous and non-sepalous florets there are 4 petals. Petals are typically 4 mm long and 3 mm wide. Petals are R.H.S. 97 A (violet-blue group). Lenticels are present on pedicels of both sepalous and non-sepalous florets, lenticels and range in length from 1 mm to 3 mm. Lenticels are R.H.S. 80 A (purple-violet group). Pedicel length for non-sepalous florets averages 3 mm. Pedicel length of sepalous florets is approximately 40 mm in length for plants of this age. Pedicels of both sepalous and non-sepalous florets continue to elongate as the inflorescence ages. In the observed plants, pedicels range from 96 B (violet-purple

group) at the base of the pedicel to R.H.S. 145 B (yellow-green group) near the floret when mature.

Stamens: 8 to 12 stamens. Anther is regular and basally attached. The stamens are 5 mm long and are R.H.S. 96 A (violet-purple group). The anthers are 2 mm long and are R.H.S. 145 A (yellow-green group). Pollen is scarce.

Stigma: Typically three style each with two to four style also being common. Each style has one stigma.

Ovary: Ovary is partially inferior.

Sepalous florets:

General.—Veins dominate on the underside of the sepals.

Number of sepals.—4 to 5 sepals per floret.

Aspect of sepals.—Smooth and glaucescent.

Shape of sepals.—Reniform with acuminate apex.

Edges are entire, but with some crenation.

Size of sepals.—As the florets mature, the sepals enlarge and overlap each other more and more, until, often, there is no space between the sepals when the petals of the florets open. Sepals at maturity are typically 40 mm long and 50 mm wide. Sepalous florets can be 70 mm in diameter. In the observed plants, the upper sides of the sepals are variegated in color with the centers being R.H.S. 96 C (violet-blue group) and the margins being R.H.S. 83 B (violet group). In the observed plants, the undersides are R.H.S. 88 B (violet group). Pigmentation develops at the tips of the sepals and travels inward towards base of the sepals.

Fruit: None.

Disease and pest resistance: Unknown.

Plants prefer milder temperatures.

Plants bloom in the spring but can be forced to bloom by placing in a cold environment.

I claim:

1. A new and distinct *Hydrangea macrophylla* plant named 'BCHY-14.020' substantially as herein illustrated and described.

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FIG. 1



FIG. 2



FIG. 3



FIG. 4

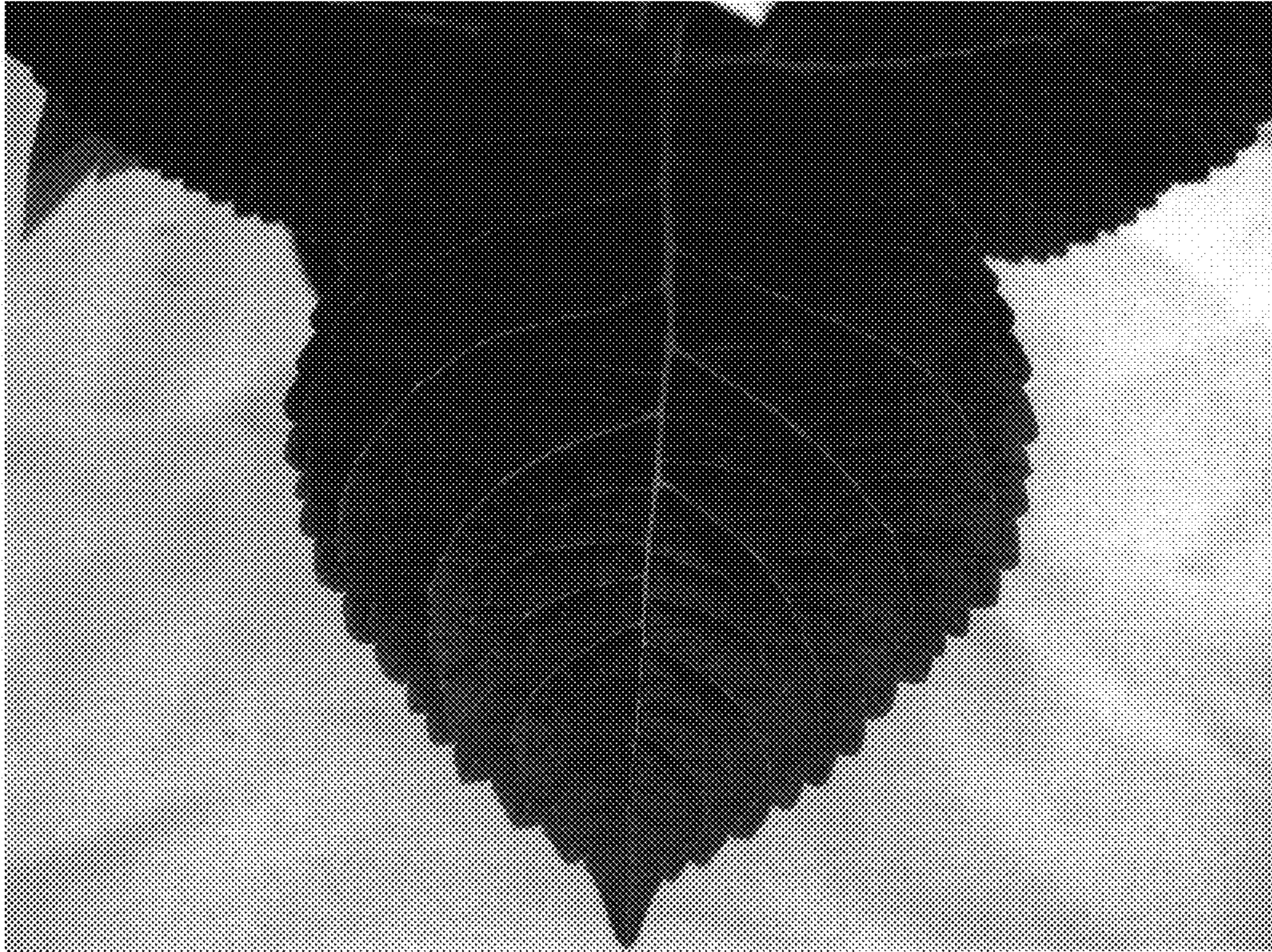


FIG. 5



FIG. 6