



(12) **United States Plant Patent**
van Langen

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(54) **SENECIO PLANT NAMED ‘AMICU1909’**

(50) Latin Name: ***Senecio* hybrid**
Varietal Denomination: **AMICU1909**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct *Senecio* plant named ‘AMICU1909’ which is characterized by a very compact growth habit, a glaucous greyed-green stem, glaucous blue-green to greyed-green foliage, foliage which falcate and occasionally strongly falcate, semi-terete foliage with a prominent longitudinal channel running the length of the leaf, and the stability of these characteristics from generation to generation.

2 Drawing Sheets

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Latin name of the genus and species: The Latin name of the genus and species of the novel variety disclosed herein is *Senecio* hybrid.

Variety denomination: The inventive variety of *Senecio* disclosed herein has been given the variety denomination ‘AMICU1909’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Parentage: ‘AMICU1909’ is a seedling selection resulting from the controlled pollination of an unnamed *Senecio kleiniiformis* plant (not patented), the seed parent, with an unnamed *Curio ficoides* plant (not patented), the pollen parent. The crossing was made by the inventor in the spring of 2018 at a commercial greenhouse in Heerhugowaard, the Netherlands. In the autumn of 2018, one seedling resulting from the crossing was observed to exhibit unique growth and foliage characteristics and was isolated for further evaluation in order to confirm the distinctness and stability of the characteristics first observed. Upon confirmation of distinctness and stability, ‘AMICU1909’ was selected for commercialization.

Asexual Reproduction: Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar ‘AMICU1909’, by way of rooting leaf cuttings, was first initiated in the winter of 2018 at the inventor’s commercial greenhouse in Heerhugowaard, the Netherlands. Through four subsequent generations, the unique features of this cultivar have proven to be stable and true to type.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The cultivar ‘AMICU1909’ has not been observed under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in environment such as temperature, day length, and light intensity, without, however, any variance in genotype. The following traits have been repeatedly observed and are determined to be the

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unique characteristics of ‘AMICU1909’. These characteristics in combination distinguish ‘AMICU1909’ as a new and distinct *Senecio* cultivar:

1. ‘AMICU1909’ exhibits a very compact growth habit with a single near-vertical stem bearing foliage that is held outward; and
2. ‘AMICU1909’ exhibits a glaucous yellow-green stem, generally appearing as a reyed-green coloration due to the thick layer of greyed-green epicuticular wax; and
3. ‘AMICU1909’ exhibits green, glaucous foliage which generally appears to be in between blue-green and greyed-green due to the thick layer of epicuticular wax which is colored in between blue-green and greyed-green; and
4. ‘AMICU1909’ exhibits narrowly oblanceolate and moderately to strongly falcate foliage; and
5. ‘AMICU1909’ exhibits semi-terete foliage with a prominent longitudinal channel running the length of the leaf.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

FIG. 1 illustrates, as nearly true as it is reasonably possible to make the same in color photographs of this type, five exemplary plants of ‘AMICU1909’ grown in a commercial greenhouse in Heerhugowaard, the Netherlands. The plants are approximately 12 months old, shown planted in an 11 cm container.

FIG. 2 illustrates, as nearly true as it is reasonably possible to make the same in color photographs of this type, the typical foliage of ‘AMICU1909’.

BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANT

The following observations and measurements made in January of 2020 describe averages from a sample set of five specimens of 12 months old ‘AMICU1909’ plants grown in 11 cm nursery containers at commercial greenhouse in

Heerhugowaard, the Netherlands. Plants were produced using conventional greenhouse production protocols for *Senecio* plants which consisted of minimal irrigation and fertilizer applications, and chemical pest and disease control measures against mealy bug and *Botrytis* as required. Plants were grown under approximately 50 percent shade after propagation and later exposed to full sun once they began to mature. No photoperiodic treatments or artificial light was given to the plants.

Those skilled in the art will appreciate that certain characteristics will vary with older or, conversely, with younger plants. 'AMICU1909' has not been observed under all possible environmental conditions. Where dimensions, sizes, colors and other characteristics are given, it is to be understood that such characteristics are approximations or averages set forth as accurately as practicable. The phenotype of the variety may differ from the descriptions set forth herein with variations in environmental, climatic and cultural conditions. Color notations are based on The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, The Royal Horticultural Society, London, 2015 (sixth edition).

A botanical description of 'AMICU1909' and comparisons with the parent plants and closest known comparator are provided below.

Plant description:

Growth habit.—Upright succulent perennial with foliage borne on a single unbranched stem.

Plant profile.—Broad ovate.

Height from soil level to top of foliar plane.—9.2 cm.

Plant spread.—Average of 11.3 cm.

Growth rate.—Slow growing to moderately fast growing.

Plant vigor.—Low vigor to moderately vigorous.

Propagation.—Type — Leaf cuttings. Time to initiate rooting — Approximately 21 days at 18 degrees Celsius. Crop time — Approximately 25 weeks to produce a marketable plant in a 7 cm container.

Disease and pest resistance or susceptibility.—Plants have not been observed to be any more or less susceptible or resistant to pathogens and pests common to *Senecio* spp.

Environmental tolerances.—Adapt to, at least, USDA Zones 10 to 12 and temperatures as high as 40 degrees Celsius; moderate tolerance to rain yet drought tolerant once established; high tolerance to wind.

Root system:

General.—Fine, well-branched fibrous roots.

Stems:

Branching habit.—Leaves borne on a single unbranched stem; no lateral branching.

Quantity of main stems.—1.

Main stem dimensions.—4.0 cm long and 0.5 cm in diameter.

Internode length.—0.4 cm.

Aspect.—Rounded.

Attitude.—Nearly vertical.

Strength.—Moderately strong.

Texture and luster.—Glabrous, glaucous, matte.

Fragrance.—When crushed, stem exhibits a somewhat spicy fragrance typical of the species.

Color, when developing.—Yellow-green, nearest to RHS 146D; stem covered with a waxy layer colored greyed-green, RHS 188D.

Color of mature stem.—Yellow-green, nearest to RHS 1468; stem covered with a thick waxy layer colored greyed-green, nearest to RHS 188D.

Color at internodes.—Yellow-green, nearest to RHS 146B; stem covered with a thick waxy layer colored greyed-green, nearest to RHS 188D.

Foliage:

Arrangement.—Alternate.

Division.—Simple.

Attachment.—Sessile.

Quantity.—Approximately 33 leaves per stem.

Shape.—Narrow oblanceolate; distally falcate and occasional strongly falcate.

Dimensions.—7.1 cm long, 0.6 cm wide, and 0.8 cm thick, on average.

Aspect.—Semi-terete, with an obvious longitudinal channel.

Attitude.—At an average angle of 55 degrees to the stem.

Apex.—Narrowly acute.

Base.—Cuneate.

Margin.—Entire, occasionally with one spine of an average length of 0.1 cm; not undulated.

Pubescence, texture and luster of the adaxial surface.—Glabrous, smooth, and matte; strongly glaucous.

Pubescence, texture and luster of the abaxial surface.—Glabrous, smooth, and matte; strongly glaucous.

Fragrance.—When crushed, foliage exhibits a somewhat spicy fragrance typical of the species.

Color.—Juvenile foliage, adaxial surface — Nearest to in between green and yellow-green, RHS NN137A and 147A; the epicuticular wax covering the leaf surface is colored in between blue-green and greyed-green, RHS 1228 and 188A. Juvenile foliage, abaxial surface — Nearest to in between green and yellow-green, RHS NN137A and 147A; the epicuticular wax covering the leaf surface is colored in between blue-green and greyed-green, RHS 1228 and 188A. Mature foliage, adaxial surface — Green, nearest to in between RHS NN137A and 139A; the epicuticular wax covering the leaf surface is colored in between blue-green and greyed-green, RHS 122B and 188A. Mature foliage, abaxial surface — Green, nearest to a mixture of RHS 137A and 137B; the epicuticular wax covering the leaf surface is colored in between blue-green and greyed-green, RHS 122B and 188A.

Venation.—No venation is visible on the adaxial surface; parallel venation of the abaxial surface is colored yellow-green, nearest to RHS 147A.

Petiole.—No petiole; leaves are sessile.

Inflorescence: No flowering has been observed to date.

Comparisons with the parent plant and closest known comparator: Plants of the new cultivar 'AMICU1909' differ from the seed parent, an unnamed and unpatented *Senecio kleiniiformis* plant, in the following characteristics described in Table 1 below.

TABLE 1

Characteristic	'AMICU1909'	The seed parent.
Foliage aspect and shape.	Narrowly oblanceolate and semi-terete, with a prominent longitudinal channel.	Proximally terete, progressing to semi-terete and ultimately opening up, distally, to a deltoid shape.
Foliage strength.	Stronger than the parent.	Weaker than 'AMICU1909'.

Plants of the new cultivar 'AMICU1909' differ from the pollen parent, unnamed and unpatented *Curio ficoides* plant, in the following characteristics described in Table 2 below.

TABLE 2

Characteristic	‘AMICU1909’	The pollen parent
Stem diameter.	Thinner than the parent.	Thicker than ‘AMICU1909’.
Foliage width.	Narrower than the parent.	Broader than ‘AMICU1909’.
Foliage aspect.	Semi-terete with a prominent longitudinal channel.	Terete; longitudinal channel is less prominent.
Foliage shape.	Narrowly oblanceolate; distally falcate and occasional strongly falcate.	Oblanceolate; not falcate.
General coloration of the foliage.	In between blue-green and greyed-green, yet generally presenting closer to green by comparison to the pollen parent.	In between greyed-green and blue-green, generally presenting as closer to a mixture of light gray and blue-green by comparison to ‘AMICU1909’.

Comparisons with the closest known comparator: Plants of the new cultivar ‘AMICU1909’ differ from the closest known commercial comparator, the common form of the species *Senecio ficoides* ‘Mount Everest’ (U.S. Pat. No. 22,188), in the following characteristics described in Table 3 below.

TABLE 3

Characteristic	‘AMICU1909’	‘Mount Everest’
Growth habit.	More compact than ‘Mount Everest’.	Less compact than ‘AMICU1909’.
Plant height.	Shorter than ‘Mount Everest’.	Taller than ‘AMICU1909’.
Foliage aspect.	Semi-terete with a prominent longitudinal channel.	Terete; longitudinal channel is less prominent.
Foliage shape.	Narrowly oblanceolate; distally falcate and occasional strongly falcate.	Oblanceolate; not falcate.
Foliage thickness.	Thicker than ‘Mount Everest’.	Thinner than ‘AMICU1909’.

That which is claimed is:

1. A new and distinct variety of *Senecio* plant named ‘AMICU1909’, substantially as described and illustrated herein.

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FIG. 1



FIG. 2

