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Maillard

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(54) **WHITE PEACH TREE NAMED**
‘SWEETPINKIE’

(50) Latin Name: *Prunus persica* (L.) Batsch.
Varietal Denomination: **SWEETPINKIE**

(71) Applicant: **AGRO SELECTIONS FRUITS**, Elne
(FR)

(72) Inventor: **Arsène Maillard**, Elne (FR)

(73) Assignee: **AGRO SELECTIONS FRUITS**, Elne
(FR)

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Primary Examiner — Annette H Para

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Birch, Stewart, Kolasch
& Birch, LLP

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct variety of white peach tree denominated
‘SWEETPINKIE’ which has fruits with high eating quality
and very long shelf life without alteration before and after
harvesting, with a semi-sweet cream flesh at maturity time,
and a red pigmentation under the fruit skin as well as around
and into the stone cavity, and an attractive skin with a high
percentage of purple red blush on skin surface, on a red
background.

5 Drawing Sheets

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Botanical classification: *Prunus persica* (L.) Batsch.
Variety denomination: ‘SWEETPINKIE’.

This application claims priority of Community Plant
Variety Right No. 2020/3067 filed on Nov. 30, 2020 (Nov.
30, 2020) which is hereby incorporated by reference in its
entirety.

The new variety named ‘SWEETPINKIE’ is also known
as 8W.02.64.14 PB or ASF15167. Indeed, before giving a
name to a new and distinct variety of fruit tree, a provisional
reference is assigned, considering the references of a tree in
orchard. This provisional reference is constituted firstly with
the number of the parcel on which the tree has grown, then
the number of the line, the tree number and finally the year
of selection. Then before being named ‘SWEETPINKIE’,
the provisional reference of this white peach tree variety was
8W.02.64.14, corresponding to the tree 64 located in line 02
of the parcel 8W and selected during the year 2014. The
letters “PB” are related to the first letters of the type of tree
in French (PB for “Pêche Blanche”, that means “white
peach”). Once the hybrid selected, the breeder assigned a
clone reference that begins with the letters “ASF” followed
by the year of selection and a number corresponding to the
maturity order. The final name is only assigned once the
application has been filed and the name approved after its
publication in the official bulletin. For the variety ‘SWEET-
PINKIE’, the clone reference was ‘ASF15167’.

BACKGROUND OF THE NEW VARIETY

The present invention relates to a new and distinct variety
of white peach tree, *Prunus persica* (L.) Batsch, which has
been given the variety denomination ‘SWEETPINKIE’.

This new tree produces fruits with a long shelf life without
alteration both on the tree after growth completion and after
harvesting, very good eating quality, semi-clingstone cream

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flesh with pinky red pigmentation under the fruit skin,
generally with a red pigmentation into the stone cavity and
in a star-shape around the cavity, for fresh market in August
in the Pyrénées-Orientales department, France.

ORIGIN OF THE VARIETY

The ‘SWEETPINKIE’ white peach tree originated from a
cultivated area of the south of France, in the Pyrénées-
Orientales department, where it was tested.

This place is under a Mediterranean climate (a temperate
area), on the Mediterranean coastline. Winters are gentle and
summers warm and dry. The amount of days with tempera-
tures below 7° Celsius can vary between 600 and 1200 hours
per year. The place is sunny, with 2400 to 2800 hours of
sunny days per year on average. The prevailing wind is
called ‘Tramontane’: it dries the air, clears the sky from
clouds, but its intensity can be strong and affect the harvest,
fruit quantity and/or quality. Marine moisture does not affect
the place. Precipitations are irregular through the year and
from one year to another. The amount of rainy days does not
exceed 80 days per year and are mostly found in Spring and
Autumn. In May and October, very intense precipitations
occasionally happen. Summer is dry with a few thunder-
storms.

The ‘SWEETPINKIE’ variety results from controlled
pollinated cross between the white peach variety named
‘SWEETREGAL’ (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 23,196) which was
used as the seed parent, or female parent, and the white
nectarine variety named ‘NECTARRUBY’ (U.S. Plant Pat.
No. 23,421) which was used as the pollen parent, or male
parent.

The ‘SWEETPINKIE’ variety was obtained by hybridiz-
ing and propagated by grafting on a ‘INRA® GF677’
(non-patented) rootstock trees. It has been determined to

have unique tree and fruit characteristics making it worthy for commercial fresh fruit production. There are no known effects of the standard rootstock trees set forth above on the scion cultivar. Asexually propagated plants remained true to the original tree and all characteristics of the tree and the fruit were transmitted. The plant was reproduced asexually by us in Les Régelines, Route d'Alenya, La Prade de Mousseillous, 66200 ELNE, Pyrénées-Orientales, France. More particularly, the plant was reproduced by grafting.

SUMMARY OF THE VARIETY

The new and distinct variety 'SWEETPINKIE' white peach tree blooms during the first at the end of February or early in March near Elne in the Pyrénées-Orientales department, France. The blooming period is considered medium. However, it was observed that its date of blooming seems to be highly dependant on climatic conditions.

The first fruit of 'SWEETPINKIE' ripens generally medium to late in the season, namely in August. However, it was observed that its date of maturity seems to be highly dependant on climatic conditions.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

In the accompanying drawing, which are as nearly true as it is reasonably possible to make in a color illustration of this type:

FIG. 1 is a color photograph showing trees of the new variety 'SWEETPINKIE' in orchard, bearing fruits.

FIG. 2 is a color photograph showing trees of the new variety 'SWEETPINKIE' in orchard, at blooming time.

FIG. 3 is a color photograph showing a close view of a flowering branch of a tree of the new variety 'SWEETPINKIE' in orchard, at blooming time, with the bunches of flowers being opened.

FIG. 4 is a color photograph which depicts the flower buds at different development stages, and the reverse and side views of the flower and the reproductive organs with petals removed, of the new variety 'SWEETPINKIE' also named '8W.02.64.14 PB ASF15167'.

FIG. 5 is a color photograph which shows the upper and lower sides of leaves and different views of three typical specimens of the fruit of the new variety 'SWEETPINKIE' also named '8W.02.64.14 PB ASF15167' at ripening time, one fruit having been cut in half with the pit being left in one of the halves for depicting leaves, fruit flesh, pit and pit cavity of the new variety.

FIG. 6 is a color photograph showing a close view of typical specimens of fruits of the new variety, at ripening time.

FIG. 7 is a color photograph that shows two views of the stone, and the kernel of the stone

The views of trees, flowers, leaves and fruits have been photographed in their fourth growing season (third year of production).

Due to chemical development, processing and printing, the flowers, stones and fruits depicted in these photographs may or may not be accurate when compared to the actual botanical specimen.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The trees, flowers, and fruits may vary in slight detail due to variations in soil type, cultural practices, and climatic condition. The potential for commercial production of fresh

fruits by 'SWEETPINKIE' is high, due to fruit very long shelf life without alteration after harvesting.

Trees show a strong vigor and a large stature half-standing in a semi-flared out aspect. The anthocyanic coloration of flowering shoot is present excluding brushwood side away from sun. The time of beginning of flowering is considered medium; flowering begins at the end of February or early in March. The type of flower is showy (rosette) with medium petal size. Petals are pink to medium pink. Leaf glands are present and reniform. The fruit flesh is cream white at complete maturity, with a red pink pigmentation under the skin. The fruit flesh also usually shows a red pigmentation into the stone cavity and around, in a star shape. The fruit skin is medium thick, with a purple red blush on a red background. The stone is semi-clingstone and its size is small. Fruit taste is semi-sweet, very aromatic and with a high level of sugars.

Compared to 'SWEETCHIEF' white peach variety (not patented), the fruits of 'SWEETPINKIE' usually ripen earlier during the season. The productivity of the new 'SWEETPINKIE' is higher than the productivity of the similar variety 'SWEETCHIEF'. The fruits of the new variety 'SWEETPINKIE' show a luminous dark purple red color covering more than 90%, usually between 90 and 100%, of the skin surface, on a purple background, whereas the fruit skin color of the 'SWEETCHIEF' white peach is less colored, namely with a red color covering 70 to 100% of the skin surface.

The fruit flesh of 'SWEETCHIEF' variety is less sugary than the fruit flesh of the new variety 'SWEETPINKIE'.

Compared to its seed or female parent, i.e. the 'SWEETREGAL' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 23,196) variety, the new variety 'SWEETPINKIE' has a similar blooming period. The new variety 'SWEETPINKIE' usually shows a later ripening period, in comparison with the 'SWEETREGAL' variety. Indeed, the first fruits of the new variety 'SWEETPINKIE' usually ripen two weeks later than the first fruits of the 'SWEETREGAL' variety.

The fruit taste of the new variety 'SWEETPINKIE' is more sugary, with an IR BRIX comprised between 14 and 16, than the fruit taste of the fruit taste of 'SWEETREGAL', showing an IR BRIX of approximately 13. Generally speaking, the eating qualities of the new variety are considered higher than those of the 'SWEETREGAL' variety.

Compared to its pollen or male parent, i.e. the 'NECTAR-RUBY' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 23,421) variety, the new variety 'SWEETPINKIE' has a similar blooming period. The first fruit of the new variety 'SWEETPINKIE' usually ripen 10 days earlier than the first fruits of the variety 'NECTAR-RUBY'.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Referring more specifically to the pomological details of this new and distinct variety of white peach tree, the following was observed on trees in their fourth growing season (third year of production) under the ecological conditions prevailing at the orchards located near the town of Elne, Pyrénées-Orientales département, France. All observations have been done on rootstock cultivars. Used rootstocks were 'INRA® GF677' (non-patented) trees. All major color code designations are by reference to The R.H.S. Colour Chart (Fourth Edition) provided by The Royal Horticultural Society of Great Britain.

Tree:

Size.—

Generally.—Considered large. The tree size the first year was approximately 200 to 280 cm. The tree was pruned during each following dormant season to a height of approximately 250 cm. Current season shoots growth could reach 80 cm. The tree size from the second year (second and next years) reached a final height of 330 cm including current season shoots length. The tree size is consistently reduced to 250 cm the next years.

Spread.—Approximately 100 cm with a cylindrical shape. The whole orchard was oriented to a central leader organization, with tree lines spaced of 4.0 meters and trees spaced of 1.0 meter in a same tree line. As a result, tree spread was about 100 cm and the orchard contained 2500 trees by hectare.

Vigor.—Considered strong.

Productivity.—Considered good to very good, and very regular. Fruit set is spaced by thinning to develop the remaining fruit into the desired market sized fruit. The number of the fruit set varies with the prevailing climatic conditions and cultural practices employed during the bloom period and is therefore not distinctive of the present variety. A reduce vegetation, obtained with pruning or green pruning, approximately 1 month or 1 month ½ before harvesting flat fruits, significantly promotes fruit qualities, especially growth, color and firmness. Moreover, contamination risks due to *Monilia* or rot are significantly reduced. ‘SWEETPINKIE’ variety is not much sensitive to cracking of pistil cavity, to cork formation into peduncle cavity or to *Monilia*.

Bearer.—Very regular. The fruit distribution is considered homogenous on mixed branches and spurs having more than 1 year. Thinning of 2 fruits out of 3 was necessary for the tree valorisation. Thinning was necessary every year during the years of observation.

Form.—The ‘SWEETPINKIE’ variety has naturally a semi-flared shape.

Density.—Considered dense.

Hardiness.—Hardy in all stone fruit growing areas of France and especially where the chilling requirement is between 700 and 1200 hours. More particularly, experimentations on the same orchard in Elne, Pyrénées-Orientales department, with winter chilling requirement below 7.2° C. comprised between 700 hours and 1200 hours according to the specificities of the year, namely 1031 hours in 2012-2013, 777 hours in 2013-2014, 893 hours in 2014-2015, 718 hours in 2015-2016, 825 hours in 2016-2017, 1017 hours in 2017-2018, 844 hours in 2018-2019, 706 hours in 2019-2020 and 822 hours in 2020-2021 showed a good behavior of the tree in all cases. No injury with temperatures as low as -12° C. in winter. Good resistance to late frosts.

Trunk:

Diameter.—Approximately 55.0 to 61.0 millimeters in diameter when measured at a distance of approximately 20.0 centimeters above the soil level for trees on fourth leaf (or third year of production).

Bark texture.—Considered rough, with lenticels.

Lenticels.—Numerous lenticels are present. The number of lenticels reaches 3 lenticels per cm². The

lenticels range in size of approximately 4.0 to 5 millimeters in width, and about 1.0 millimeter in height.

Lenticel color.—The lenticels show a light beige color (RHS Greyed Orange 164 D).

Bark coloration.—The bark has a grey color (RHS Grey 201 D) darker than the lenticels color.

Branches:

Size.—The branches are pruned to approximately 1.0 meter in length.

Diameter.—Average as compared to other peach varieties. The current season shoots have a diameter of approximately 5.0 to 6.0 millimeters, and mature branches have a diameter of approximately 8.0 to 10.0 millimeters.

Surface texture.—Rough with few lenticels for current season shoots and rough, with lenticels, for mature branches, wood which is several years old has no furrowed appearance.

Crotch angles.—Primary branches are considered variable, but the crotch angles are generally 40 degrees from the horizontal axis for current season shoots and 50° degrees from the horizontal axis for mature branches. This particular characteristic is not considered distinctive of the variety, however.

Current season shoots.—

Internode length.—Generally 22.0 to 28.0 millimeters.

Color.—The color of new shoot tips is considered green (RHS Yellow Green 145 A) on lower part of new shoot tips, whereas the upper part is darker and colored in purple (RHS Greyed Purple 183 A), depending on the level on the tip and the sunlight exposure.

Mature branches.—

Internode length.—Generally 28.0 to 30.0 millimeters.

Color of mature branches.—Brown (RHS Greyed Brown N 199 B or RHS Greyed Brown N 199 C).

Lenticels.—A very high number of lenticels are present on mature branches. The number of lenticels reaches 6 lenticels per cm². The size of lenticels is considered small on one year's old shoots and medium on two-year-old shoots. The lenticel shape is stretched round with a height of 0.5 to 1.0 millimeter, a width of 1.0 to 1.5 millimeter and a diameter between 0.5 and 1.0 millimeter on one-year-old shoots and a diameter between 1.0 and 1.5 millimeter on two-year-old shoots.

Lenticel color.—The lenticels on mature branches have a beige color (RHS Greyed Orange 164 B).

Leaves:

Size.—Considered medium for the species. The ratio leaf length/leaf width is 4.365.

Leaf length.—The medium length is about 172.0 millimeters with leaf petiole.

Leaf width.—The medium width is 39.40 millimeters.

Leaf form (in cross section).—Concave.

Leaf form.—Lanceolate.

Leaf base shape.—Acute.

Leaf tip form.—Acute.

Leaf thickness.—Medium.

Leaf color.—

Upper leaf surface.—Green (RHS Green 137 A).

Lower surface.—A slightly lighter green (RHS Yellow Green 146 A) than the upper leaf surface color.

Leaf texture.—Smooth and glabrous on both upper and lower surfaces of the leaf.

Leaf venation.—Pinnately veined.

Mid-vein.—

Color.—Light green (RHS Yellow Green 146 D or RHS Yellow Green 147 C). The color may evolve with maturity. 5

Width.—Approximately 1.5 millimeters.

Secondary veins.—

Color.—Light green (RHS Yellow Green 145 C or RHS Yellow Green 145 D). 10

Leaf margins.—Slightly undulating.

Form.—Considered crenate.

Uniformity.—Leaves are isolated or grouped by 2 or 3. In this last case, one leaf of normal size is found with one or two smaller leaves (at least 50% smaller). 15

Leaf petioles.—

Size.—Considered medium.

Length.—About 13.0 to about 14.0 millimeters. 20

Diameter.—About 1.5 to 2.0 millimeters.

Shape.—Grooved.

Petiole color.—

Upper petiole surface.—Green (RHS Yellow Green 144 A or RHS Yellow Green 144 B). 25

Lower surface.—A slightly lighter green (RHS Yellow Green 145 A) than the upper petiole surface color.

Leaf glands.—

Size.—Considered medium. Their length is about 1.5 millimeter and their width is about 1.0 millimeter. 30

Number.—Generally 2 glands per leaf.

Type.—Reniform.

Margins.—Smooth and regular.

Position.—Alternate on the upper part of petiole.

Color.—On young leaves, leaf glands color is considered green (RHS Yellow Green 145 A or RHS Yellow Green 145 B). On older leaves, leaf glands color turns to a brown (RHS Brown 200 A) color. 35

Leaf stipules.—

Generally.—No leaf stipules were observed. But as seen in the characteristic relative to the leaves uniformity, it is possible to find leaves by groups of 2 or 3, with a normal-size leaf and smaller ones. 40

Flowers:

Flower buds.— 45

Generally.—At pre-floral stage of development, the floral buds are round in shape. Their form is evolving until blooming, with variable dimensions. Just before blooming, floral buds are approximately 9.0 to 10.0 millimeters wide and approximately 16.0 to 18.0 millimeters long. The floral buds show a homogenous distribution on the trees. 50

Color.—This characteristic is dependent upon the proximity to bloom. At pre-floral stage of development, the bottom of the flower's buds, or calyx, or flower receptacle, is of purple color (RHS Greyed Purple 187 A or RHS Greyed Purple 187 B) on its outer face. The inner face of the flower receptacle is orange yellow (RHS Yellow Orange 23 A or RHS Orange Yellow 23 B). The corolla, formed by the petals, is generally of pink color (RHS Red Purple 65 A or RHS Red Purple 65 B) on both faces. Petals color shows an evolution until the end of flowering. 55

Hardiness.—The buds are considered hardy under typical central Pyrénées-Orientales departement climatic conditions. No winter injury was noted during the 65

last several years of evaluation in the central Pyrénées-Orientales departement, with winter temperatures as low as −10 degrees Celsius in January. The current variety has not been intentionally subjected to drought or heat stress, but the variety showed a very good resistance in orchard to temperatures up to 42 degrees Celsius with an average temperature between 28 and 30 degrees Celsius during 3 weeks in summer.

Date of bloom.—The blooming time generally begins at the end of February or early in March. The first bloom was observed on Mar. 4, 2018.

Blooming time.—Considered medium in relative comparison to other commercial peach cultivars grown in the Pyrénées-Orientales departement, France. The date of full bloom is observed generally at the middle of the blooming period. The date of bloom varies slightly with climatic conditions and cultural practices. Thus, the full bloom was observed in 2018, from March 4th until March 11th, then March 4th until Mar. 10, 2019, then from February 21st to Mar. 2, 2020, and then from February 28th to Mar. 10, 2021.

Duration of bloom.—Medium, approximately between 7 to 11 days. This characteristic varies slightly with the prevailing climatic conditions.

Flower type.—The variety is considered to have a showy type of flower, in a spread shape.

Flower size.—Considered medium. Flower diameter at full bloom is approximately 37.0 to 40.0 millimeters.

Bloom quantity.—Considered medium, approximately 45 flowers per meter, with a high rate of fruit set.

Flower bud frequency.—Generally 2 flower buds appear per node, occasionally 1.

Petal size.—

Generally.—Considered medium.

Length.—Generally between 20.0 and 21.0 millimeters.

Width.—Generally between 18.0 and 19.0 millimeters.

Petal form.—Round-shaped.

Petal count.—Usually 5.

Petal arrangement.—Intermediate.

Petal texture.—Smooth on both upper and lower surfaces of the petal.

Petal color.—At the stage F of blooming, when the flower is fully opened, both surfaces of the petal are colored with a pink to a medium pink (RHS Red Purple 65A) color when young, becoming slightly darker until the end of blooming.

Fragrance.—Slight to moderate.

Petal claw.—

Form.—The claw is considered to have a narrow form.

Length.—About 1.5 to 2.0 millimeters.

Width.—About 1.5 millimeters at the base.

Color.—The petal claw usually shows a pink color darker than the petal color (RHS Red Purple 61 A).

Petal margins.—Generally considered slightly undulating.

Petal apex.—

Generally.—The petal apices are generally shaped as a wide dome.

Flower pedicel.—

Length.—Considered medium and having an average length of approximately 1.0 to 4.0 millimeters.

Diameter.—Considered average, approximately 1.5 to 2.0 millimeters.

Color.—Green (RHS Yellow Green 144 B or RHS Yellow Green 144 C).

Calyx.—

Internal surface texture.—Smooth.

Color.—At the stage F of blooming, when the flower is opened, the inner surface of the calyx, namely the flower receptacle, is yellow green or orange (RHS Greyed Green 153 C or RHS Greyed Orange 163 B). The outer surface of the calyx is considered of purple color (RHS Greyed Purple 187 A or RHS Greyed Purple 187 B).

Sepals.—

Sepal count.—Usually 5 sepals.

Surface texture.—The outer surface has a short, fine pubescent texture.

Margins.—Smooth.

Size.—Medium.

Length.—Approximately 5.0 to 6.0 millimeters.

Width.—Approximately 4.0 to 5.0 millimeters.

Form.—Conic and round at the top.

Color.—The upper surface of the sepals shows a purple color (RHS Greyed Purple 187 A or RHS Greyed Purple 187 B) whereas the lower surface of sepals is considered greenish (RHS Yellow Green 146 A).

Anthers.—

Generally.—Medium in length.

Shape.—Cordate.

Color.—Depending on the maturity stage, anthers are colored with a red (RHS Orange Red N34 A) to a yellow color (RHS Yellow 11A).

Pollen production.—Pollen is abundant and has a yellow color (RHS Yellow 12C) which may evolve with maturity. The present variety is considered auto-fertile (self-pollinating).

Pistil.—

Number.—Usually 1.

Generally.—Average in size. The pistil is positioned below the stamens.

Length.—Approximately 15.0 to 16.0 millimeters including the ovary. Generally smaller than filaments in length when considered without the ovary, or equal to filament length.

Color.—Considered green to yellow (RHS Yellow Green 145 A or RHS Yellow Green 145 B or RHS Yellow Green 151 A or RHS Yellow Green 151 B) at the beginning of blooming period. The color evolves during the blooming to become yellow.

Position.—The pistil is positioned below the stamens.

Ovary.—

Height.—Approximately 1.5 to 2.0 millimeters.

Diameter.—Approximately 1.5 to 2.0 millimeters.

Color.—Green (RHS Yellow Green 145 A).

Pubescence.—Present.

Stamens.—

Size compared to petals.—The size of stamen is smaller than the size of petals.

Length.—Approximately 16.0 to 17.0 millimeters, usually longer than the pistil length and sometimes equal.

Color.—White (RHS White N 155 D) to pink (RHS Red 54 B or RHS Red 54 C) depending on the maturity stage.

Average number of stamens per flower.—Approximately 31 to 36 stamens per flower.

Stigma.—

Shape.—Elliptical.

Diameter.—Approximately 1.0 millimeter.

Color.—Yellowish (RHS yellow Green 153 C or RHS Yellow Green 153 D).

Fruit:

Maturity when described.—Firm in ripe conditions (shipping ripe).

Date of first picking.—Aug. 17, 2018.

Date of last picking.—The date of harvest varies slightly with the prevailing climatic conditions. The ‘SWEETPINKIE’ variety has an medium to late season date of picking, and a grouped maturity. The maturity is grouped within 8 to 9 days and the harvest is generally performed in two runs. Last known picking times carry on from August 17th to Aug. 24, 2018, then from August 5th to Aug. 13, 2019, then from to July 26th to Aug. 2, 2020, and then from to August 2nd to Aug. 10, 2021.

Size.—

Generally.—Homogeneous in size, size A to 2A to 3A. Considered large.

Average cheek diameter.—Approximately 69.0 to 71.0 millimeters.

Average axial diameter.—Approximately 62.0 to 68.0 millimeters.

Typical weight.—Approximately 162.0 grams. This characteristic is high dependent upon the prevailing cultural practices, and therefore is not particularly distinctive of the variety.

Fruit form.—

Generally.—Round, slightly flattened, regular, homogeneous and symmetrical. The fruit is generally uniform in symmetry, viewed from the suture’s plane.

Suture.—

Fruit suture.—The suture is usually absent, or wide-mouthed and slightly marked when present, extending from the base to the apex. No apparent callousing or stitching exists along the suture line. Not pointed.

Ventral surface.—

Form.—Smooth.

Apex.—Slightly depressed.

Mucron.—Absent.

Closing of the pistil cavity.—Very good. The pistil cavity is not visible.

Stem cavity.—Average depth of the stem cavity is considered small, about 12.0 to 14.0 millimeters. Average width is between 19.0 and 20.0 millimeters, and the stem cavity is flared.

Fruit skin.—

Thickness.—Considered medium and strong, and the skin adherence to flesh is medium.

Texture.—The pubescence of the skin is almost in-existent. The texture is smooth and glabrous.

Taste.—Semi-sweet.

Tendency to crack.—None observed.

Color.—

Blush color.—This blush color is a solid purple red (RHS Greyed Purple 187 A). The purple red blush covers approximately 85% of the fruit skin surface on a red background (RHS Greyed Red 180 A or RHS Greyed Red 181 A) on approximately 15% of the fruit skin surface. The percentage of the blush on the fruit skin surface can vary and is generally dependent upon the prevailing conditions under which the fruit was grown.

Ground color.—The ground color covers approximately 15% of the fruit skin surface, and is considered red (RHS Greyed Red 180 A or RHS Greyed Red 181 A).

Lenticels.—Only few lenticels are present.

Fruit stem.—Medium in length, approximately 5.0 to 6.0 millimeters.

Diameter.—Approximately 4.0 to 5.0 millimeters.

Color.—Pale green (RHS Yellow Green 145 A).

Flesh.—

Ripens.—Very homogenously, slowly. The flesh has a long shelf life.

Texture.—Firm or medium firm, crunchy, melting at harvest maturity stage.

Fibers.—Not fibrous.

Aroma.—Considered present.

Eating quality.—Considered good to very good, semi-sweet, sugary and aromatic.

Flavor.—Considered semi-sweet. The Brix is generally superior to 12, with an average value at 12.3, and acidity is low.

Juice.—Juicy at complete maturity. The juice shows a cream color.

Brix.—Generally between 11.5 and 12.9 degrees. The medium Brix is 12.3 degrees. This characteristic varies slightly with the number of fruits per tree, prevailing cultural practices and the surrounding climatic conditions.

Flesh color.—The flesh is considered white to cream (RHS White N155 D) with a red pigmentation under the skin (RHS RED 53 B or RHS Red 53 C), and into the stone cavity and around said cavity, in a star shape.

Stone:

Type.—Semi-Clingstone, more or less semi-adherent depending on the fruit maturity.

Size.—Considered small for the variety. The stone size varies significantly depending upon the tree vigor, crop load and prevailing growing conditions.

Length.—Approximately 24.0 millimeters.

Width.—Approximately 20.0 millimeters.

Diameter.—Approximately 15.50 millimeters.

Form.—Elliptical.

Base.—Round.

Apex.—

Shape.—The stone apex is short and pointed.

Stone cavity.—Considered small in size, with round form and dimensions corresponding to the stone's dimensions.

Stone surface.—

Surface texture.—The pit is transversely furrowed on its entire surface. Furrows are deeper and more oblate on lateral sides.

Ridges.—The surface texture is generally characterized by more prominent ridges along the ventral edges and at the apical tip.

Ventral edge.—

Width.—Narrow. Approximately 2.0 millimeters at mid-suture.

Dorsal edge.—

Shape.—Grooved.

Stone color.—The color of the dry stone is generally considered light brown (RHS Greyed Orange 164 B or RHS Greyed Orange 164 C).

Tendency to split.—Splitting is absent.

Kernel.—

Size.—The kernel is considered small.

Length.—Approximately 12.0 millimeters.

Width.—Approximately 8.0 millimeters.

Thickness.—Approximately 5.5 millimeters.

Form.—Considered elliptical.

Pellicle.—The pellicle of the kernel has a short pubescence.

Color.—The kernel skin is brown colored (RHS Greyed Orange N167 A). The almond, which is the seed of the kernel, is white (RHS White 155 B) and has a sweet taste. The kernel and its embryo are mature at the time of fruit maturity.

Use.—The subject variety 'SWEETPINKIE' is considered to be a white peach tree having a medium late season of maturity, and which produces fruits that are considered firm and attractively colored in purple red. Fruits have semi-sweet taste and are excellent for uncooked consumption, crunchy or melting when at full maturity. Fruits have excellent gustative qualities. Due to their flesh quality, firmness and density, they can also be commercialized as 4th range product (packed fruit or fruit in bags for example). And they are also useful for both local and very long-distance shipping.

Keeping quality.—Remarkable. Fruits have a slow maturation and a long shelf life both on the tree after growth completion and after harvesting without alteration. After growth completion, fruits are preserved more than one week. After harvest, fruits are well preserved more than 2 weeks at 2.0 degree Celsius.

Shipping quality.—Considered very good. The fruit of the new white peach variety showed minimal bruising of the flesh or skin damage after being subjected to normal harvesting and packing procedures. Its resistance to handling during harvest and packing and its long shelf life without alteration after harvest easily permit 2 weeks-shipping at 2 degrees Celsius.

Resistance to insects and disease.—No particular susceptibilities were noted. The present variety is not very sensitive to *Monilia* or rot. The pistil cavity is completely closed, generally without any cork formation.

Although the new variety of white peach tree possesses the described characteristics when grown under the ecological conditions prevailing near Elne, Pyrénées-Orientales departement, France, it should be understood that variations of the usual magnitude and characteristics incident to changes in growing conditions, fertilization, pruning, pest control and horticultural management are to be expected.

I claim:

1. A new and distinct variety of white peach tree as illustrated and described, characterized by fruits with high eating quality and very long shelf life without alteration before and after harvesting, with a semi-sweet cream flesh at maturity time, and a red pigmentation under the fruit skin as well as around and into the stone cavity, and an attractive skin with a high percentage of purple red blush on skin surface, on a red background.

FIG. 1



FIG. 2



FIG. 3



FIG. 4

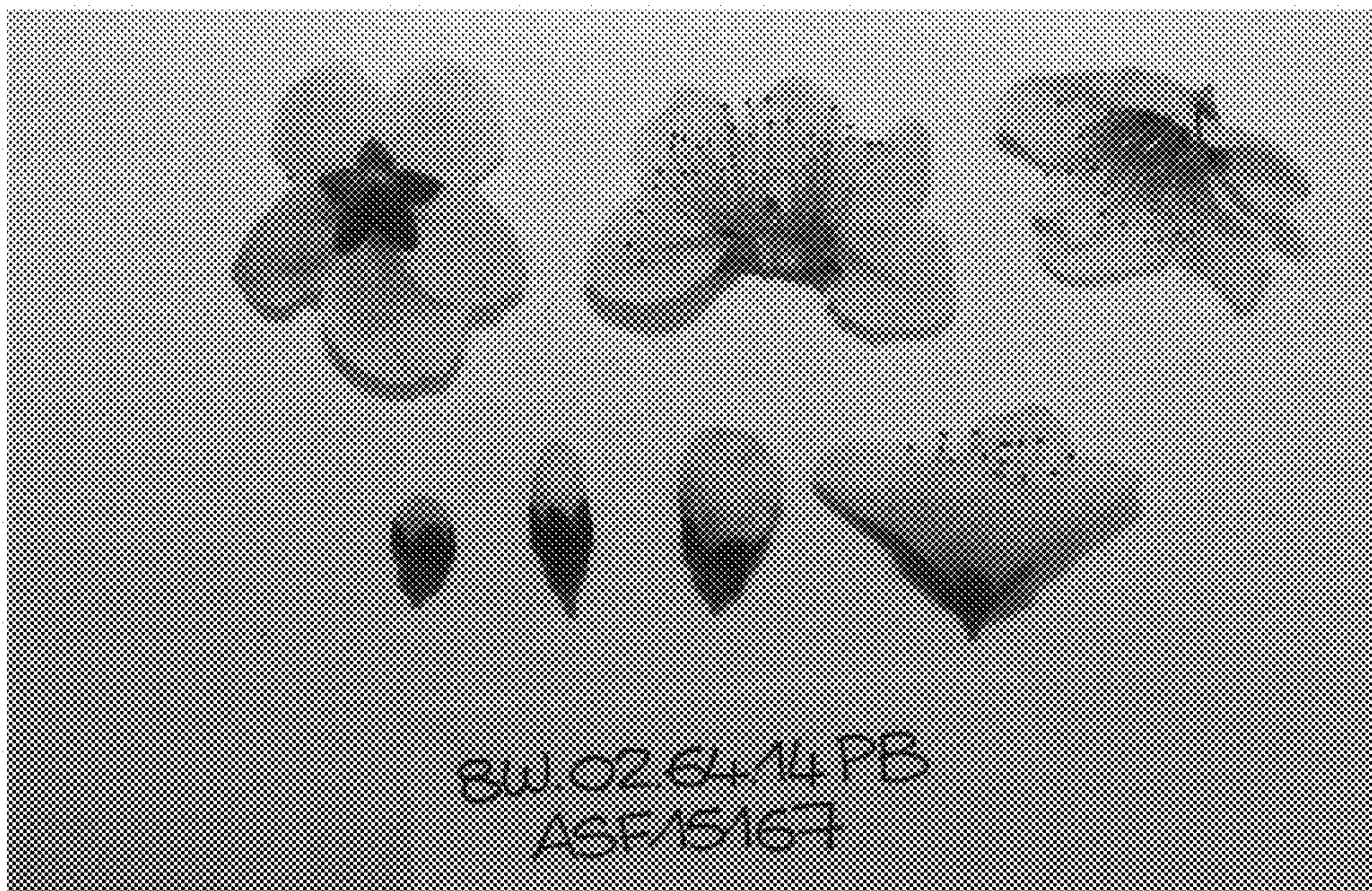


FIG. 5

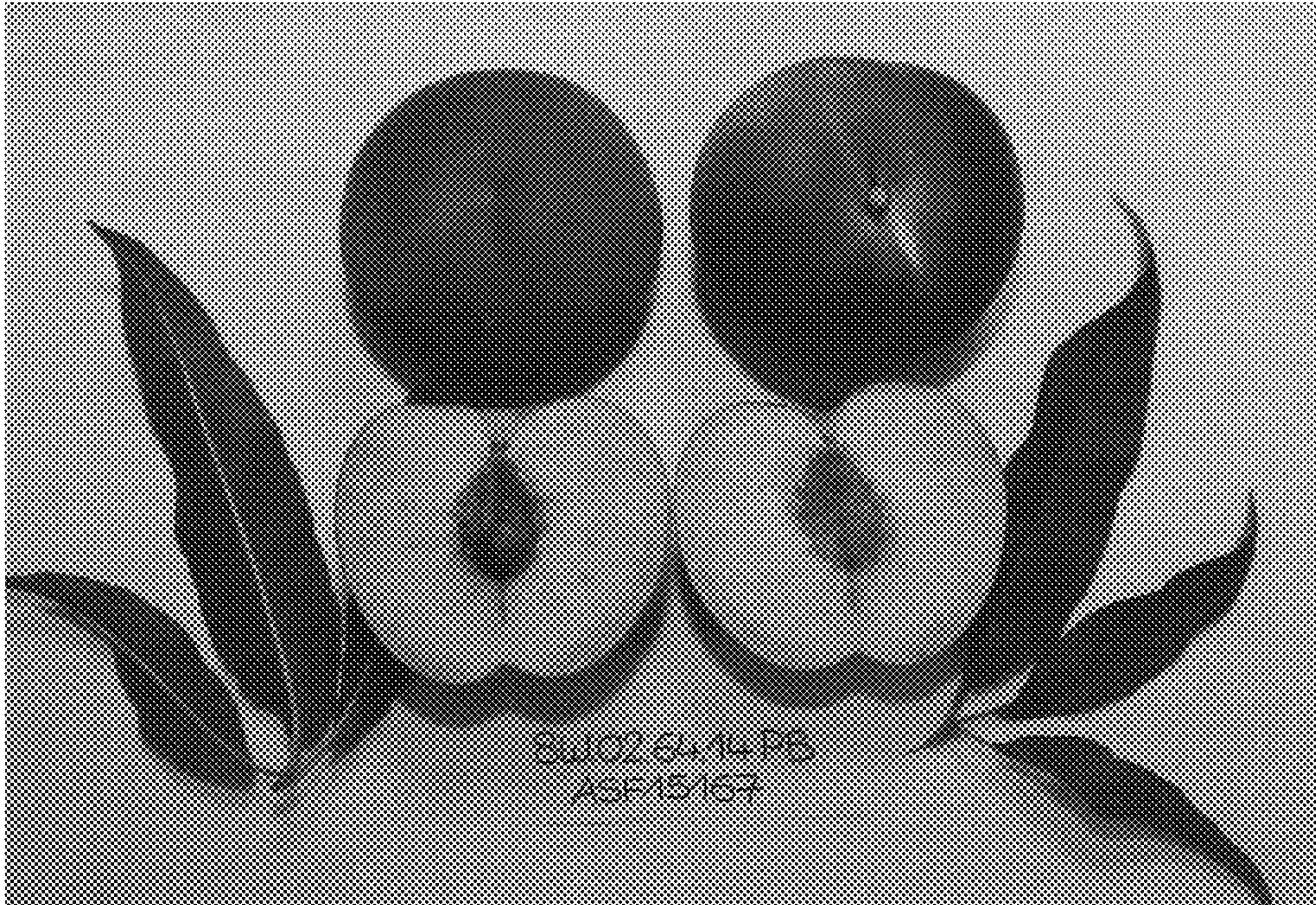


FIG. 6

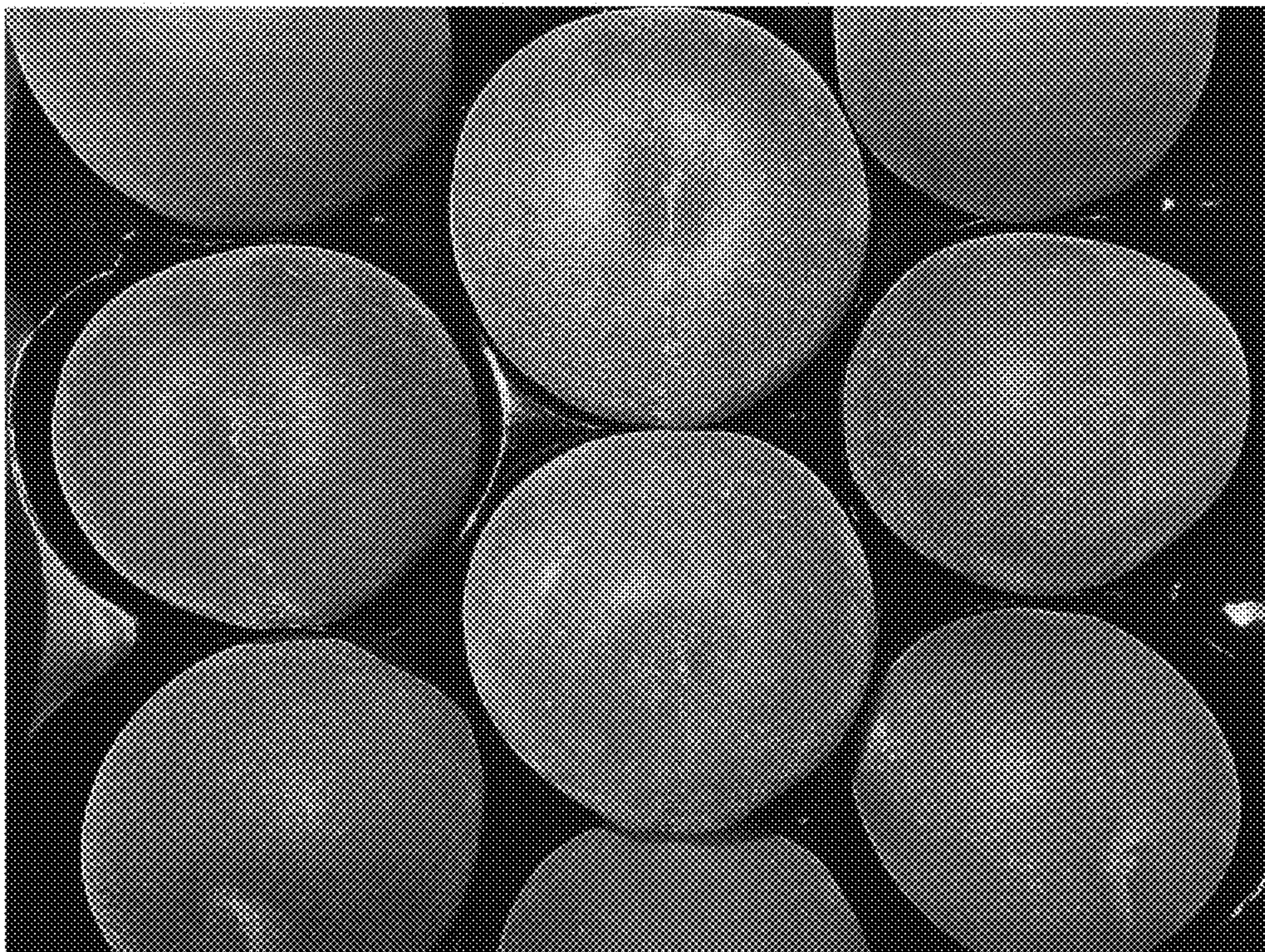


FIG.7

