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(12) **United States Plant Patent**  
**Gomez Bullis**

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(54) **NEOREGELIA PLANT NAMED ‘MENDOZA’**  
(50) Latin Name: *Neoregelia carolinae*×*Neoregelia concentrica*  
Varietal Denomination: **Mendoza**  
(75) Inventor: **Patricia E. Gomez Bullis**, Princeton, FL (US)  
(73) Assignee: **Bullis Bromeliads**, Princeton, FL (US)  
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See application file for complete search history.

*Primary Examiner* — June Hwu  
(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — C. A. Whealy

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Neoregelia* plant named ‘Mendoza’, characterized by its upright and outwardly arching growth habit; broad glossy green and pale yellow green variegated lower leaves; broad glossy green, pale yellow green and red purple variegated mid-plant leaves; broad glossy red purple-colored upper leaves; good interiorscape and landscape performance; and resistance to leaf spotting under hot and rainy conditions.

**1 Drawing Sheet**

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**2**

Botanical designation: *Neoregelia carolinae*×*Neoregelia concentrica*.  
Cultivar denomination: ‘MENDOZA’.

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of *Neoregelia* plant, botanically known as *Neoregelia carolinae*×*Neoregelia concentrica*, and hereinafter referred to by the name ‘Mendoza’.

The new *Neoregelia* plant is a product of a planned breeding program conducted by the Inventor in Princeton, Fla. The objective of the breeding program is to create new *Neoregelia* plants with uniquely colored leaves.

The new *Neoregelia* plant originated from a cross-pollination made by the Inventor in 2002 in Princeton, Fla. of an unnamed proprietary selection of *Neoregelia carolinae*, not patented, as the female, or seed, parent with an unnamed proprietary selection of *Neoregelia concentrica*, not patented, as the male, or pollen, parent. The new *Neoregelia* 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 Princeton, Fla. in 2002.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Neoregelia* plant by off-sets in a controlled environment in Princeton, Fla. since 2002, has shown that the unique features of this new *Neoregelia* plant are stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations.

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

Plants of the new *Neoregelia* have not been observed under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in environment and cultural practices such as temperature 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 ‘Mendoza’. These characteristics in combination distinguish ‘Mendoza’ as a new and distinct cultivar of *Neoregelia*:

1. Upright and outwardly arching growth habit.
2. Broad glossy green and pale yellow green variegated lower leaves.
3. Broad glossy green, pale yellow green and red purple variegated mid-plant leaves.
4. Broad glossy red purple-colored upper leaves.
5. Good interiorscape and landscape performance.
6. Resistant to leaf spotting under hot and rainy conditions.

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

1. Plants of the new *Neoregelia* have broader leaves than plants of the female parent selection.
2. Lower leaves of plants of the new *Neoregelia* are green and pale yellow green variegated whereas lower leaves of plants of the female parent selection are red and green in color.
3. Upper leaves of plants of the new *Neoregelia* are red purple in color whereas upper leaves of plants of the female parent selection are orange red in color.

Plants of the new *Neoregelia* differ primarily from plants of the male parent selection in leaf color as plants of the male parent selection have solid pale green-colored leaves with black-colored concentric rings.

Plants of the new *Neoregelia* can be compared to plants of the *Neoregelia* ‘Raphael’, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 10,719. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Princeton, Fla., plants of the new *Neoregelia* and ‘Raphael’ differed primarily in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Neoregelia* and ‘Raphael’ differed in leaf coloration.
2. Plants of the new *Neoregelia* were more resistant to leaf spotting than plants of ‘Raphael’ during periods of hot and rainy weather.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS**

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

The photograph at the bottom of the sheet is a side perspective view of a typical flowering plant of 'Mendoza' grown in a container.

The photograph at the top of the sheet is a top perspective view of a typical flowering plant of 'Mendoza'.

#### DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The aforementioned photographs and following observations, measurements and values describe flowering plants grown during the spring in 15-cm containers in a polypropylene-covered greenhouse in Princeton, Fla. under commercial *Neoregelia* production practices. During the production of the plants, day temperatures ranged from 10° C. to 32° C., night temperatures ranged from 7° C. to 32° C. and light levels averaged 3,200 foot-candles. Plants were one year old when the photographs and description were taken. In the following description, color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 2007 Edition, except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

Botanical classification: *Neoregelia carolinae* × *Neoregelia concentrica* 'Mendoza'.

Parentage:

*Female, or seed, parent.*—Unnamed proprietary selection of *Neoregelia carolinae*, not patented.

*Male, or pollen, parent.*—Unnamed proprietary selection of *Neoregelia concentrica*, not patented.

Propagation:

*Type.*—By offsets.

*Time to initiate roots, summer.*—About 30 days at 30° C. to 32° C.

*Time to initiate roots, winter.*—About 45 days at 30° C. to 32° C.

*Time to produce a rooted young plant, summer.*—About three to four months at 30° C. to 32° C.

*Time to produce a rooted young plant, winter.*—About three to five months at 18° C. to 22° C.

*Root description.*—Medium to fine in thickness, fibrous; yellow to tan in color.

*Rooting habit.*—Moderately freely branching; medium density.

Plant description:

*Plant form/growth habit.*—Upright and outwardly arching growth habit; rosette leaves are erect when young, becoming outwardly arching with development; plants readily produce uniform offsets; vigorous growth habit.

*Plant height.*—About 26 cm.

*Plant diameter or spread.*—About 47 cm.

*Internode length.*—About 3 mm.

*Stem texture.*—Smooth, glabrous.

*Stem color.*—Close to NN155A.

Foliage description:

*Arrangement.*—Rosette, spiral phyllotaxis; simple; sessile, clasping.

*Shape.*—Oblong.

*Apex.*—Cuspidate.

*Base.*—Truncate.

*Margin.*—Serrate; spinose.

*Length.*—About 31 cm.

*Width, mid-section.*—About 6.7 cm.

*Width, base.*—About 11 cm.

*Texture.*—Smooth, glabrous; leathery; longitudinally ribbed.

*Luster.*—Glossy.

*Venation pattern.*—Parallel.

*Color.*—Lower leaves, upper surface: Centers, close to 150D; margins and longitudinal stripes, close to 137A; venation, similar to leaf surface coloration. Lower leaves, lower surface: Centers, close to 145D; margins and longitudinal stripes, close to 137A to 137B, venation, similar to leaf surface coloration. Mid-plant leaves, upper surface: Centers, close to 150D; margins and longitudinal stripes, close to 137A; mid-leaf and towards the base, tinted with close to 60C; venation, similar to leaf surface coloration. Mid-plant leaves, lower surface: Centers, close to 145C to 145D; margins and longitudinal stripes, close to 137A to 137B; venation, similar to leaf surface coloration. Upper leaves, upper surface: Close to 60A to 60B; towards the base, close to 157C to 157D; venation, similar to leaf surface coloration. Upper leaves, lower surface: Close to 71B; towards the base, close to 156D; venation, similar to leaf surface coloration.

Inflorescence description:

*Inflorescence form.*—Terminal flat-topped compact corymb located inside the leaf rosette; about 62 flowers develop per inflorescence.

*Time to flower.*—Plants begin flowering about ten to twelve weeks after planting; plants flower naturally during the spring in Florida.

*Flower longevity.*—Individual flowers last about one day on the plant; flowers persistent.

*Fragrance.*—None detected.

*Inflorescence length.*—About 5 cm.

*Inflorescence diameter.*—About 3.1 cm.

*Flower size.*—Length: About 3.8 cm. Diameter: About 7 mm.

*Flower buds.*—Length: About 3.5 cm. Diameter: About 5 mm. Shape: Narrowly elongate. Color: Close to 91C.

*Petals.*—Quantity per flower: Three in a single whorl. Shape: Oblanceolate. Apex: Acuminate. Base: Truncate. Margin: Entire. Length: About 3 cm. Width: About 6 mm. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: When opening and fully opened, upper surface: Close to NN155D; apical center, close to 91B; towards the apical margins, close to 91C; apex, close to 90C. When opening and fully opened, lower surface: Close to NN155D; towards the apex, close to 91D; apex, close to 90B.

*Flower bracts.*—Quantity per flower: One. Shape: Oblanceolate. Length: About 3 cm. Width: About 9 mm. Texture: Membraneous. Color: Close to 157D.

*Sepals.*—Quantity per flower: Three in a single whorl. Shape: Oblanceolate. Apex: Acuminate. Base: Truncate. Margin: Entire. Length: About 2 cm. Width: About 4 mm. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color, upper and lower surfaces: Towards the apex, close to 145A; mid-section, close to 145C; towards the base, close to 157D.

*Peduncles.*—Length: About 6 mm. Diameter: About 1.2 cm. Strength: Strong. Aspect: Typically erect. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: Close to NN155B.

*Pedicels.*—Length: About 5 mm. Diameter: About 3 mm. Strength: Strong. Aspect: Typically erect to

somewhat outward and curving upright. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: Close to NN155D.

*Stamens*.—Quantity per flower: Six. Filament length: About 1.5 cm; partially adnate to the petals. Filament color: Close to NN155D. Anther shape: Lanceolate. Anther length: About 4 mm. Anther color: Close to 158A. Pollen amount: Scarce. Pollen color: Close to 158A.

*Pistils*.—Quantity per flower: One. Pistil length: About 2.2 cm. Stigma shape: Oval, elongated. Stigma color: Close to NN155B. Style length: About 1.3 cm. Style color: Close to NN155D. Ovary color: Close to NN155B.

*Fruit/seed*.—Fruit and seed production have not been observed on plants of the new *Neoregelia*.

Temperature tolerance: Plants of the new *Neoregelia* have been observed to tolerate temperatures ranging from about 2° C. to about 37° C.

Interior & garden performance: Plants of the new *Neoregelia* have been observed to have good postproduction longevity under interior conditions and to have good garden performance.

Disease/pest resistance: Plants of the new *Neoregelia* have been observed to be resistant to leaf spotting during periods of hot and rainy weather. Resistance to pests and other pathogens common to *Neoregelia* plants has not been observed.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct *Neoregelia* plant named 'Mendoza' as illustrated and described.

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