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(54) **CALIBRACHOA PLANT NAMED**
'SAKCAL093'

(50) Latin Name: *Calibrachoa* sp.
Varietal Denomination: **SAKCAL093**

(75) Inventor: **Akinobu Ui**, Iwata (JP)

(73) Assignee: **Sakata Seed Corporation**, Yokohama
(JP)

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See application file for complete search history.

Primary Examiner—Kent L Bell

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Jondle & Associates, P.C.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

'SAKCAL093' is a new *Calibrachoa* cultivar particularly distinguished by having a burgundy flower color, large flower size and a creeping plant and growth habit, is disclosed.

1 Drawing Sheet

1

Genus and species: *Calibrachoa* sp.
Variety denomination: 'SAKCAL093'.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention comprises a new and distinct cultivar of *Calibrachoa*, botanically known as *Calibrachoa* sp., and hereinafter referred to by the cultivar name 'SAKCAL093.' It is characterized by having a burgundy flower color and creeping plant and growth habit. The new cultivar originated from a hybridization made in 2004 in Kakegawa, Japan. The female parent was a proprietary hybrid *Calibrachoa* breeding line named '0012-29b-1a' having rose-pink flowers and a creeping plant and growth habit. The male parent was a proprietary hybrid *Calibrachoa* breeding line named '2B-57a-1' characterized by its burgundy flower color and creeping plant and growth habit.

In May 2004, '0012-29b-1a' and '2B-57a-1' were crossed and 130 seeds were obtained. In July 2004, F₁ seed was sown in the greenhouse, cultivated and plant lines were produced with flower color of various shades of burgundy with a creeping plant and growth habit. In October 2004, line 'K5-55' was selected for its burgundy flower color and creeping plant and growth habit. In February 2005, line 'K5-55' was vegetatively propagated by cuttings, cultivated and evaluated.

From April 2005 to February 2006, line 'K5-55' was vegetatively propagated by cuttings and re-evaluated. The line 'K5-55' was subsequently named 'SAKCAL093' and its unique characteristics were found to reproduce true to type in successive generations of asexual propagation.

DESCRIPTION OF THE GENUS CALIBRACHOA
LLAVE & LEX

The genus *Petunia* was originally established in 1803 by A. L. Jussieu, who described both *P. parviflora* and *P. nyctaginiflora* as type species. Using a non-horticultural system that selected the first mentioned species as the type species (lectotype), N. L. Britton and H. A. Brown declared *P. parviflora* as the type species for *Petunia* in 1913.

During the 1980's and 1990, H. J. Wijsman published a series of articles regarding the ancestry of *P. hybrida*, the Garden *Petunia*, and the inter-relationship of several species classified as *Petunia*. These studies discovered that *P. hybrida*

2

and its ancestral species, *P. nyctaginiflora* (= *P. axillaris*) and *P. violacea* (= *P. integrifolia*), possessed 14 pairs of chromosomes while several other species, including *P. parviflora*, possessed 18 pairs of chromosomes. Since *P. parviflora* was the lectotype species for the *Petunia* genus, Wijsman and J. H. de Jong proposed transferring the 14 chromosome species to the genus *Stimoryne*. Horticulturists opposed reclassifying the Garden *Petunia* and in 1986, Wijsman proposed the alternative of making *P. nyctaginiflora* the lectotype species for *Petunia* and transferring the 18 chromosome species to another genus. The I. N. G. Committee adopted this proposal. By 1990 Wijsman had transferred several species, including *P. parviflora* (= *C. parviflora*) to *Calibrachoa*, originally established by Llave and Lexarza in 1825. *Calibrachoa parviflora* (= *C. mexicana* Llave & Lexarza) is now the type species for the genus *Calibrachoa*.

Classification of the current *Petunia* and *Calibrachoa* species is still in progress. New species are also being identified. Consequently a proper description has not been written for the *Calibrachoa* genus. *Calibrachoa* can, however, be distinguished from *Petunia* based on the higher chromosome number, chromosome morphology, plant branching habit and type of flower bud aestivation. Whereas *Petunia* species bear a flower peduncle and one new stem from a node, *Calibrachoa* bear a flower peduncle and three stems. *Petunia* species have a cochlear corolla bud, and a single outermost petal covers the other four, radially folded and terminally contorted petals. *Calibrachoa* flower buds are flat with all five petals linearly folded and the two lower petals forming a cover around the three other petals and fused together.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The following are the most outstanding and distinguishing characteristics of this new cultivar when grown under normal horticultural practices in Kakegawa, Japan.

- 1. Burgundy flower color;
- 2. Large flower size; and
- 3. A creeping plant and growth habit.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

This new *Calibrachoa* plant is illustrated by the accompanying photographs which show the plant's form, foliage and

flowers. The colors shown are as true as can be reasonably obtained by conventional photographic procedures.

FIG. 1 shows the overall plant habit.

FIG. 2 shows the mature flowers.

DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW CULTIVAR

The following detailed description sets forth the distinctive characteristics of 'SAKCAL093'. The data which define these characteristics were collected from asexual reproductions carried out in Salinas, Calif. The detailed description was taken from plants grown under greenhouse conditions for approximately 6 months from transplanting of rooted cuttings. Color references are to The R.H.S. Colour Chart of The Royal Horticultural Society of London (R.H.S.), 4th Edition.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

Classification:

Family.—Solanaceae.

Species.—*Calibrachoa* sp.

Common name.—*Calibrachoa*.

Variety name.—'SAKCAL093'.

Parentage:

Female.—Proprietary hybrid *Calibrachoa* breeding line '0012-29b-1a'.

Male.—Proprietary hybrid *Calibrachoa* breeding line '2B-57a-1'.

Plant description:

Life cycle.—Tender perennial.

Form.—Branching.

Habit.—Creeping.

Height (from soil line to top of foliage).—9.0 cm to 10.0 cm.

Spread.—58 cm to 60 cm.

Propagation:

Type cuttings.—Vegetative cuttings.

Time to produce a rooted cutting.—6 weeks.

Time to bloom from propagation.—10 weeks.

Environmental conditions for plant growth: The terminal 1.0 to 1.5 inches of an actively growing stem was excised. The vegetative cuttings were propagated in five to six weeks. The base of the cuttings were dipped for 1 to 2 seconds in a 1:9 solution of DIP 'N GROW (1 solution: 9 water) root inducing solution immediately prior to sticking into the cell trays. Cuttings were stuck into plastic cell trays having 98 cells, and containing a moistened peat moss-based growing medium. The cuttings were misted with water from overhead for 10 seconds every 30 minutes until sufficient roots were formed. Rooted cuttings were transplanted and grown in 20 cm diameter plastic pots in a glass greenhouse located in Salinas, Calif. Pots contained a peat moss-based growing medium. Soluble fertilizer containing 20% nitrogen, 10% phosphorus and 20% potassium was applied once a day or every other day by overhead irrigation. Pots were top-dressed with a dry, slow release fertilizer containing 20% nitrogen, 10% phosphorus and 18% potassium. The typical average air temperature was 24° C.

Stems:

Stem color.—RHS 143C (Green).

Anthocyanin color.—Absent.

Pubescence.—Slight.

Pubescence color.—RHS N155A (White).

Stem description.—Dull, circular cross-section.

Stem diameter.—0.1 cm.

Stem length.—15.0 cm.

Internode length.—1.0 cm.

Leaves:

Arrangement.—Alternate.

Length.—2.0 cm to 3.0 cm.

Width.—1.0 cm.

Shape.—Elliptical.

Apex.—Obtuse.

Base.—Attenuate.

Attachment.—Decurrent.

Margin.—Entire.

Color.—Upper surface: RHS 137B (Green) Lower surface: RHS 137C (Green).

Surface appearance.—Dull.

Pubescence.—Slight pubescence.

Pubescence color.—RHS N155A (White).

Venation.—Pinnate.

Petiole.—Absent.

Fragrance.—Absent.

Flowers:

Flowering habit.—Indeterminate.

Flower type.—Solitary.

Flowering requirements.—Will flower so long as day length is greater than 12 hours and temperature exceeds 13° C.

Duration of flowers.—About 5 days.

Corolla.—5 petals, fused.

Corolla shape.—The flowers are funnel shaped with five fissures and a shallow, yet prominent, indentation of the petal tip at the midvein.

Fragrance.—Absent.

Flower buds:

Surface texture.—Pubescent.

Length.—2.0 cm.

Diameter.—0.5 cm to 0.6 cm.

Shape.—Ovate.

Color.—RHS 77A (Purple) with RHS 187A (Greyed-purple) veins.

Peduncle.—Length: 0.9 cm to 1.0 cm Diameter: 0.1 cm Color: RHS 143C (Green) Surface texture: Slight RHS N155A (White) pubescence Surface appearance: Dull.

Flower description:

Flower depth.—0.5 cm.

Flower tube length.—1.5 cm.

Flower tube diameter.—0.7 cm.

Flower diameter.—3.5 cm.

Calyx.—5 sepals, free (not fused).

Sepals.—Shape: Elliptical Apex: Obtuse Margin: Entire Sepal color (both upper and lower surfaces): RHS 137D (Green).

Petals.—Shape: Bilabulate and fused; shallow, yet prominent indentation of the petal tip at the midvein Length: 1.5 cm Width: 2.0 cm Apex: Truncate Margin: Entire Surface texture: Glabrous Color: Lobes: Upper surface: Closest to but darker than RHS N74A (Red-purple) with RHS N77A (Purple) at the base and vein between the lobes Lower surface: Closest to RHS N74B (Red-purple) with RHS N77A (Purple) veins between the lobes Corolla tube: Inner: RHS 151C (Yellow-green) with RHS N77A (Purple) veins Outer: RHS 151D (Yellow-green) with RHS N77A (Purple) veins Fragrance: Absent.

Reproductive organs:

Stamen.—Number: 5, free Color: RHS 144D (Yellow-green) Pollen color: RHS 9A (Yellow).

Ovary.—Superior.
 Placenta arrangement.—Central.
 Pistil number.—1 per inflorescence.
 Pistil length.—0.8 cm.
 Stigma color.—RHS 137C (Green).
 Style length.—0.6 cm.
 Style color.—RHS 137D (Green).

Fruit/seed set: No fruit or seeds produced.

Disease and insect resistance: ‘SAKCAL093’ has excellent resistance to rain, heat and drought and will not tolerate temperatures below 10° C. Plants are susceptible to *Botrytis*, powdery mildew, various stem and root rots, and certain viruses, like Tobacco Mosaic Virus and Impatiens Necrotic Spotted Virus. Plants can be infested with aphids, leaf-miner, whitefly and various *Lepidoptera*.

COMPARISON WITH PARENTAL LINES AND KNOWN CULTIVARS

‘SAKCAL093’ is distinguished from its parents mainly by flower color and plant growth habit as shown in Table 1 below.

TABLE 1

Characteristic	‘SAKCAL093’	Female parent ‘0012-29b-1a’	Male parent ‘2B-57a-1’
Flower color	Burgundy	Rose pink	Burgundy
Plant growth habit	Creeping	Creeping	Creeping

‘SAKCAL093’ is a distinct variety of large flowered *Calibrachoa* owing to its burgundy flower color and creeping plant and growth habit. ‘SAKCAL093’ is most similar to the variety ‘Uscali28’ (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 14,847) however, there are differences in flower petal color, flower size and plant growth habit as described in the table below:

TABLE 2

Characteristic	‘SAKCAL093’	‘Uscali28’
Flower petal color, upper surface	Closest to, but darker than RHS N74A (Red-purple) with RHS N77A (Purple) at base and veins between the lobes	RHS 53A (Red)
Flower petal color, lower surface	Closest to RHS N74B (Red-purple) with RHS N77A (Purple) veins between lobes	RHS 186A (Greyed-purple)
Flower size (diameter)	3.5 cm	2.9 cm
Plant growth habit	Creeping	Semi-upright

I claim:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Calibrachoa* plant as shown and described herein.

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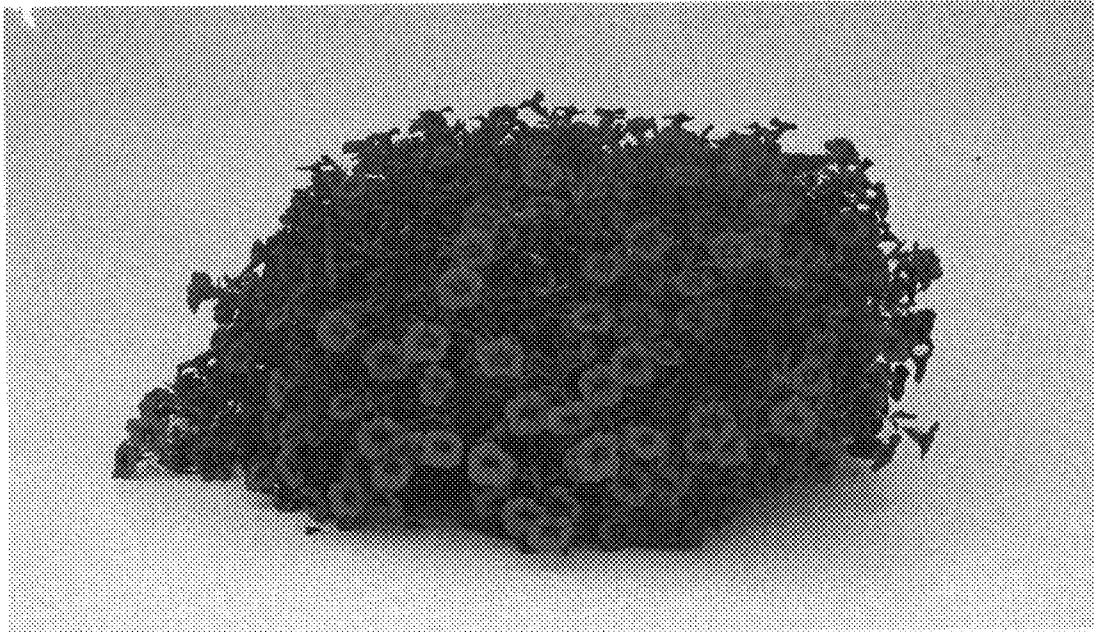


Fig. 1



Fig. 2