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- (54) **CALIBRACHOA PLANT NAMED 'COLORBURST RED'**
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

Disclosed herein is a new and distinct Calibrachoa plant, and its parts, named 'Colorburst Red' having a mounding and compact habit. This plant grows vigorously with single flowers which have light red petals and a light yellow corolla throat. The plant is very resistant to rain, heat and drought conditions.

**1 Drawing Sheet**

**1**

**2**

**BACKGROUND OF THE NEW PLANT**

This invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of Calibrachoa plant, hereinafter referred to by the name 'Colorburst Red', 'Colorburst Red' is a new variety of the Calibrachoa plant having a mounding and compact habit. The plant grows vigorously and makes an excellent hanging basket. The invention's flowers are funnel shaped with five-fissured limbs, and a slight indent on each petal. The single flowers have a diameter of 2.4–2.9 cm when fully open. The petals are light red with a light yellow corolla throat. The plant is very resistant to rain, heat and drought. The plant grows and flowers best under low soil pH conditions (pH 5–6). Typically, flowers will stay open all day and night.

Classification of the current *Petunia* and *Calibrachoa* species is still in progress. 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 revealed that *P. hybrida* 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. deJong 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 la Lave & Lexarza*) is now the type species for the genus *Calibrachoa*.

As mentioned above, the 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 estivation. 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, 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.

Asexual reproduction of 'Colorburst Red' *Calibrachoa* originated from a hybridization made in 1996 at Kakegawa, Japan. The female parent was a cross between a plant with breeder code C-13C and a bright purple-rose flowered, decumbent habit commercial variety named 'Liricashower Rose' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 9,884). Variety C-13C originated from a commercial market in South America. A single plant from this cross was then backcrossed to C-13C. The initial cross-pollination was made in October, 1995. This F<sub>1</sub> seed was sown in February, 1996 and yielded 20 plants. From these 20 plants, one plant was selected and, during the summer of 1996, C-13C was crossed to it to produce BC<sub>1</sub> seed. In February, 1997 the BC<sub>1</sub> seed was sown and yielded 50 plants. From these 50 plants, nine plant lines were selected. In August, 1997 the nine selected plant lines were vegetatively propagated and tested for easy reproducibility and stability of traits. One of these nine plant lines was hence selected for vigorous growth, decumbent habit and light red flower color. In December, 1997, cuttings of this plant line were sent to California. During the spring and summer of 1998, plants were grown under the direction and supervision of the inventors for evaluation of stability of the line's desired traits. Plants were evaluated in hanging pots at Salinas, Calif., and in the field at Kakegawa, Japan.

The invention, 'Colorburst Red' *Calibrachoa*, was determined by the inventors to have the characteristics, as herein described, firmly fixed. Plants were grown in plastic pots

containing a peat moss-based media. The media pH was maintained between 5.0 and 6.0. Plants were grown under full sunlight in a greenhouse. The media was kept moist by overhead irrigation. A balanced fertilizer containing 20% nitrogen, 20% phosphorous and 20% potassium was applied three times per week through irrigation. The air temperatures ranged from 16° C. to 27° C. during the day and 13° C. to 18° C. at night.

Plants can be finished to full bloom in a variety of containers, including 10, 15, 20 and 41 cm diameter pots. The traits were taken from plants grown in a 41 cm diameter hanging basket with a maturity of 5 months.

This new variety is distinguished from other Calibrachoa plants by its flower color, limited branching, mounding habit and vigorous growth. Two generations of successive propagation were performed between the final selection and collection of traits listed herein.

The closest commercial cultivar to this new variety that we are aware of is the petunia-like plant named 'Million Bells Cherry Pink'. The distinguishing characteristics which differentiate 'Colorburst Red' from 'Million Bells Cherry Pink' are:

	'Colorburst Red'	'Million Bells Cherry Pink'
Flower Color:	Light red	Bright purple red
Flower Size:	2.4–2.9 cm.	Smaller
Flower Throat Color:	Light yellow with dark red veins	Bright yellow
Growth Rate:	Very vigorous	Less vigor

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying drawings serve by color photographic means to illustrate the new plant variety, 'Colorburst Red'. The colors are represented as true as possible using conventional photographic procedures.

FIG. 1 is a close-up view of multiple blooms illustrating the decumbent, compact habit; abundant branching; and large profusion of blooms.

FIG. 2 is a view of the new cultivar after growing for several weeks in a hanging basket.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW VARIETY

The following description is based on observations and measurements of pot grown plants in Salinas, Calif. Color designations were made according to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart (R.H.S.) published by The Royal Horticultural Society of London, England.

Origin: Seedling.

Parentage:

*Female parent.*—C-13C (an unpatented and unnamed commercial market plant from South America) × Liricashower Rose (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 9,884).

*Male parent.*—C-13C (an unpatented and unnamed commercial market plant from South America).

Classification:

*Family.*—Solanaceae.

*Genus.*—Calibrachoa.

*Botanical.*—Unknown; Calibrachoa species.

*Commercial.*—'Colorburst Red'.

Plant:

*Growth habit.*—Decumbent, mounding in center.

*Plant height.*—24 cm., mounding habit.

*Plant spread.*—14 cm in all directions from the edge of the pot.

Stem:

*Thickness.*—2.0–3.5 mm.

*Color.*—Yellowish green (144C).

*Pubescence.*—Clear, soft, irregular in height and moderately dense.

*Branching.*—Limited.

*Length of internode.*—1.5–2.5 cm.

Leaf:

*Shape.*—Lanceolate with acute tip; leaf margin is entire.

*Length (average).*—2.7 cm.

*Width (average).*—0.7 cm.

*Thickness.*—0.5–1.0 mm.

*Color.*—Upper leaf surface is green (137B) and lower leaf surface is green (138B).

*Pubescence.*—Present on both sides of the leaf surface; clear, soft, irregular in height and slightly dense.

Flower:

*Shape.*—Funnel shape, with five-fissured limb, slight indent on each petal; the corolla has radial symmetry with fused sepals and petals. There are 5 sepals measuring 1.4 cm×2.0 mm. The sepal shape is lanceolate with an acute tip; ovary is superior. Petals are fused at 5 mm from the tip of each petal.

*Lobation.*—None.

*Depth.*—2.7 cm.

*Diameter.*—2.4–2.9 cm when fully open.

*Color.*—Unopened stage: light red-purple (64D); Mature upper petal is red-purple (57A); lower petal is red-purple (57C); main vein petal color is black (202A) with purple tinge; secondary vein petal color is purple-violet (81C).

*Reproductive organs.*—One green yellow (154C) pistil, five green yellow (154C) stamens, 2 with long filaments bending upward over the pistil and 3 short filaments, anther is yellow and filaments are white.

*Fragrance.*—None.

*Fruit/Seed.*—Not produced.

*Type.*—Perennial.

*Time for rooted cuttings.*—4 weeks.

*Disease, pest and cold tolerance.*—Plants are susceptible to Botrytis, powdery mildew, various stem and root rots and certain viruses such as Tobacco Mosaic Virus and Impatiens Necrotic Spotted Virus. Plants can be infected with aphids, leafminer, whitefly and various Lepitoptera. These plants are cold tolerant lasting through the winter under snow cover.

*Blooming habit.*—Plants begin to bloom with long days beginning in March and continuing through October. Each bloom lasts three days and stay open day and night. The blooms are fairly cold tolerant but will not withstand freezing temperatures.

*Bloom quantity.*—Mature plants grown in a 41 cm diameter hanging basket can have in excess of 700 open flowers at any given time and the inflorescence is solitary.

We claim:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of Calibrachoa plant named 'Colorburst Red' as shown and described herein.

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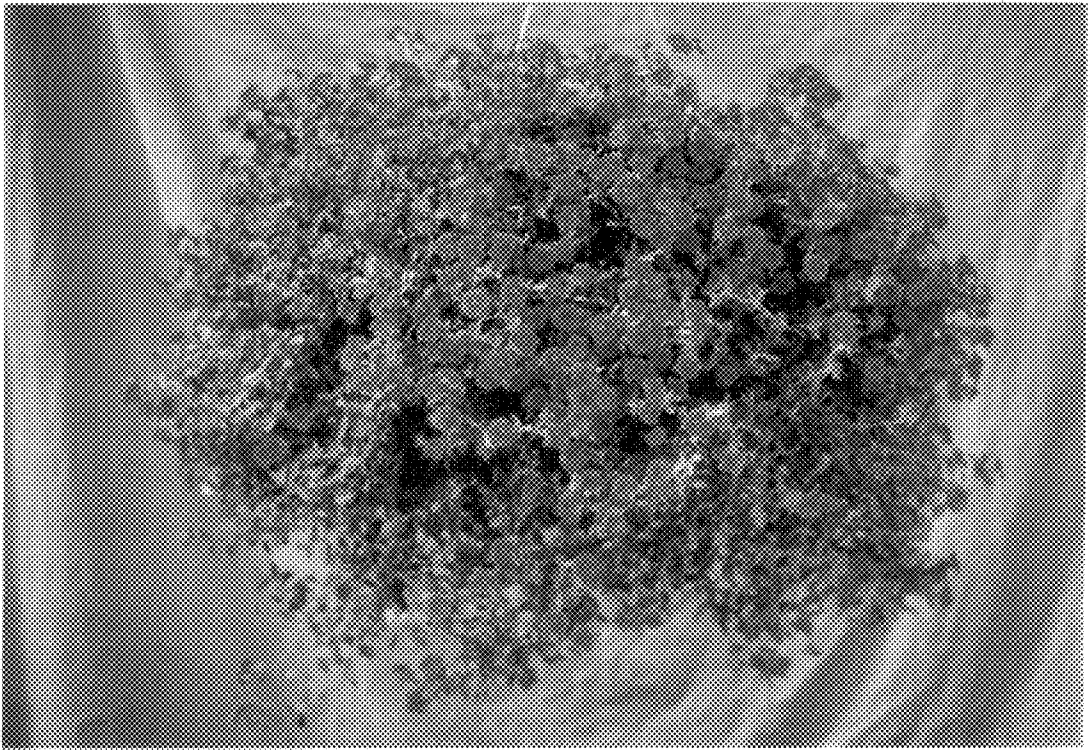


FIG. 1

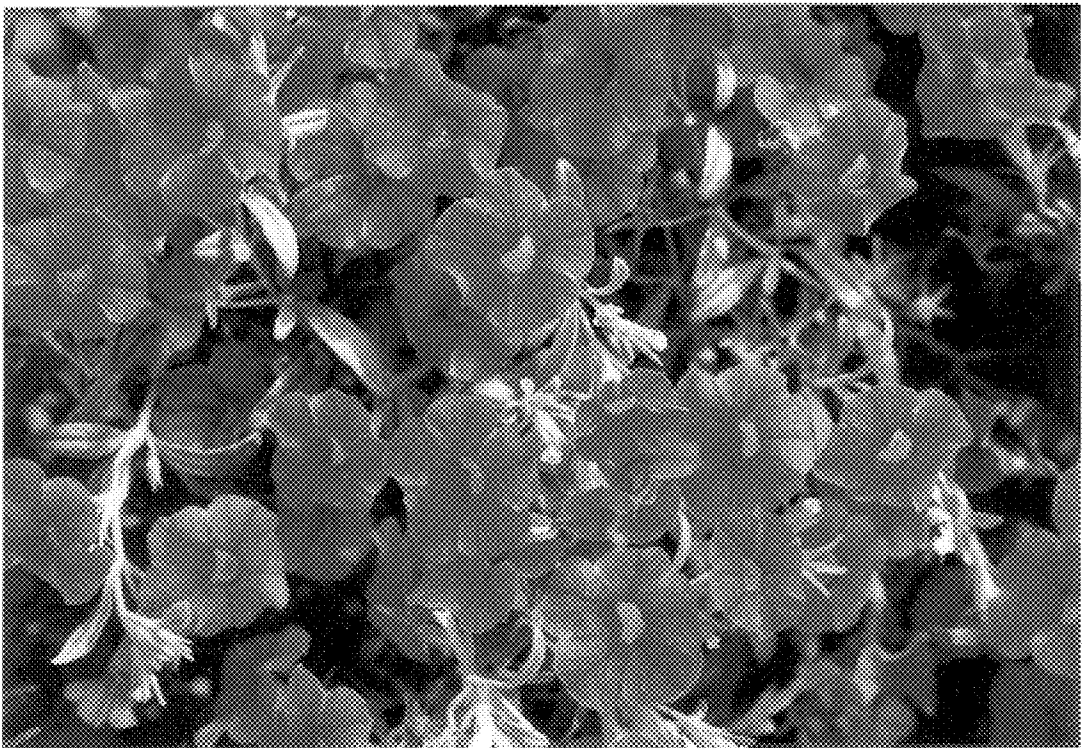


FIG. 2