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(54) **PETUNIA PLANT NAMED ‘SUNSURF AKATORA’**

(50) Latin Name: *Petunia*×*hybrida*
Varietal Denomination: **Sunsurf Akatora**

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(52) **U.S. Cl.**
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(58) **Field of Classification Search**
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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Petunia* plant named ‘Sunsurf Akatora’, characterized by its upright to outwardly spreading and trailing plant habit; vigorous growth habit; freely branching habit; early and freely flowering habit; long flowering period; large dark red-colored flowers; and good garden performance.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Botanical designation: *Petunia*×*hybrida*.
Cultivar denomination: ‘SUNSURF AKATORA’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of *Petunia* plant, botanically known as *Petunia*×*hybrida* and hereinafter referred to by the name ‘Sunsurf Akatora’.

The new *Petunia* plant is a product of a planned breeding program conducted by the Inventors in Higashiomi, Shiga, Japan. The objective of the breeding program is to create new freely branching *Petunia* plants with trailing habit and dark red-colored flowers.

The new *Petunia* plant originated from a cross-pollination made by the Inventors in April, 2006 in Higashiomi, Shiga, Japan of a proprietary selection of *Petunia*×*hybrida* identified as code name Pf 411-5, not patented, as the female, or seed, parent with a proprietary selection of *Petunia*×*hybrida* identified as code name B268-1, not patented, as the male, or pollen, parent. The new *Petunia* plant was discovered and selected by the Inventors as a single flowering plant within the progeny of the stated cross-pollination in a controlled environment in Higashiomi, Shiga, Japan in September, 2007.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Petunia* plant by terminal cuttings in a controlled environment in Higashiomi, Shiga, Japan since October, 2007 has shown that the unique features of this new *Petunia* plant are stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Plants of the new *Petunia* have not been observed under all possible environmental conditions and cultural conditions. The phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in environmental conditions 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 ‘Sunsurf Akatora’. These characteristics in combination distinguish ‘Sunsurf Akatora’ as a new and distinct *Petunia* plant:

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1. Upright to outwardly spreading and trailing plant habit.
2. Vigorous growth habit.
3. Freely branching habit.
4. Early and freely flowering habit.
5. Long flowering period.
6. Large dark red-colored flowers.
7. Good garden performance.

Plants of the new *Petunia* can be compared to plants of the female parent selection. Plants of the new *Petunia* differ primarily from plants of the female parent selection in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Petunia* are broader than plants of the female parent selection.
2. Plants of the new *Petunia* have larger leaves than plants of the female parent selection.

Plants of the new *Petunia* can be compared to plants of the male parent selection. Plants of the new *Petunia* differ primarily from plants of the male parent selection in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Petunia* are more freely branching than plants of the male parent selection.
2. Plants of the new *Petunia* have smaller flowers than plants of the male parent selection.

Plants of the new *Petunia* can also be compared to plants of the *Petunia* ‘Sunremi’, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 16,803. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Higashiomi, Shiga, Japan, plants of the new *Petunia* and ‘Sunremi’ differed primarily in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Petunia* were broader than plants of ‘Sunremi’.
2. Leaves of plants of the new *Petunia* were elliptic in shape whereas leaves of plants of ‘Sunremi’ were ovate in shape; in addition, leaves of plants of the new *Petunia* were smaller than leaves of plants of ‘Sunremi’.
3. Plants of the new *Petunia* had larger flowers than plants of ‘Sunremi’.
4. Plants of the new *Petunia* and ‘Sunremi’ differed in flower throat color as plants of ‘Sunremi’ had greyed yellow-colored flower throats.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

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

The photograph at the top of the sheet comprises a side perspective view of a typical flowering plant of 'Sunsurf Akatora' grown in a container.

The photograph at the bottom of the sheet is a close-up view of a typical flowering plant of 'Sunsurf Akatora'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The aforementioned photographs and following observations, measurements and values describe plants grown during the late spring and early summer in 15-cm containers in an outdoor nursery in Higashiomi, Shiga, Japan and under cultural practices typical of commercial *Petunia* production. During the production of the plants, day temperatures averaged 23° C. and night temperatures averaged 13° C. Plants were four months old when the photographs and description were taken. In the following description, color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 2001 Edition, except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

Botanical classification: *Petunia* × *hybrida* 'Sunsurf Akatora'.
Parentage:

Female, or seed, parent.—Proprietary selection of *Petunia* × *hybrida* identified as code name Pf 411-5, not patented.

Male, or pollen, parent.—Proprietary selection of *Petunia* × *hybrida* identified as code name B268-1, not patented.

Propagation:

Type.—By terminal cuttings.

Time to initiate roots.—About one week at temperatures of 15° C. to 20° C.

Time to produce a rooted young plant.—About three weeks at temperatures of 15° C. to 20° C.

Root description.—Fibrous; white in color.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching.

Plant description:

Plant and growth habit.—Upright to outwardly spreading and trailing plant habit; freely branching habit with numerous lateral branches developing per plant; pinching enhances lateral branch development; vigorous growth habit.

Plant height.—About 17.3 cm.

Plant diameter.—About 49 cm.

Lateral branch description:

Length.—About 20.4 cm.

Diameter.—About 2.2 mm.

Internode length.—About 1.9 cm.

Strength.—Strong, flexible.

Aspect.—Upright to outwardly.

Texture.—Pubescent.

Color.—Close to 143C.

Foliage description:

Arrangement.—Alternate, simple.

Length.—About 4.4 cm.

Width.—About 1.8 cm.

Shape.—Elliptic.

Apex.—Obtuse.

Base.—Obtuse.

Margin.—Entire.

Texture, upper and lower surfaces.—Pubescent.

Venation pattern.—Pinnate; reticulate.

Color.—Developing leaves, upper surface: Close to 138A. Developing leaves, lower surface: Close to 146B. Fully expanded leaves, upper surface: Close to 137B; venation, close to 144C. Fully expanded leaves, lower surface: Close to 146B; venation, close to 145B.

Petioles.—Length: About 4.7 mm. Diameter: About 1 mm. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Pubescent. Color, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 144C.

Flower description:

Flower arrangement and habit.—Single salverform flowers arising from upper leaf axils; freely flowering habit with usually about 49 flowers developing per plant; flowers face upright to outwardly.

Fragrance.—None detected.

Natural flowering season.—Early flowering habit, plants of the new *Petunia* initiate and develop flowers about three to four weeks after planting; long flowering period; flowering commences naturally during the spring and plants flower continuously throughout the summer until late autumn in Japan.

Flower longevity.—Individual flowers last about seven to ten days on the plant; flowers not persistent.

Flower diameter.—Large, about 6 cm.

Flower length (depth).—About 5.2 cm.

Throat diameter.—About 1.5 cm.

Tube diameter, base.—About 3.8 mm.

Tube length.—About 3.1 cm.

Flower bud.—Shape: Cylindrical. Length: About 4.2 cm. Diameter: About 7.4 mm. Color: Close to 184B.

Corolla.—Arrangement: Five petals fused at the base and opening into a flared trumpet. Petal length from throat: About 2.7 cm. Petal width: About 2.9 cm. Petal shape: Spatulate. Petal apex: Cuspidate. Petal margin: Entire; slightly undulate. Petal texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Throat texture: Smooth, glabrous. Tube texture: Pubescent. Color: Petal, when opening, upper surface: Close to 45B. Petal, when opening, lower surface: Close to 51A. Petal, fully opened, upper surface: Close to 45B; venation, close to 45B. Petal, fully opened, lower surface: Close to 186B; venation, close to 186B. Throat: Close to 182B. Tube: Close to 177C.

Calyx.—Arrangement: One star-shaped calyx tube with five sepals fused at the base per flower. Sepal length: About 1.8 cm. Sepal width: About 2.1 mm. Sepal shape: Lanceolate. Sepal apex: Obtuse. Sepal margin: Entire. Sepal texture, upper and lower surfaces: Pubescent. Color, immature and mature, upper surface: Close to 143A. Color, immature and mature, lower surface: Close to 144A.

Peduncles.—Length: About 2 cm. Diameter: About 1.5 mm. Strength: Strong. Texture: Pubescent. Color: Close to 144B.

Reproductive organs.—Stamens: Quantity per flower: Five. Stamen length: About 1.8 cm to 2.3 cm. Anther shape: Ellipsoidal. Anther size: About 2.2 mm by 3 mm. Anther color: Close to 10D. Pollen amount: Moderate. Pollen color: Close to 8D. Pistils: Quantity per flower: One. Pistil length: About 2.1 cm. Style color: Close to 145C. Stigma shape: Transversely ellipsoidal. Stigma color: Close to 143B. Ovary color:

Close to N144C. Seeds and fruits: Seed and fruit development have not been observed on plants of the new *Petunia*.

Garden performance: Plants of the new *Petunia* have been observed to have good garden performance and to tolerate rain, wind and temperatures ranging from about 5° C. to about 35° C.

Pathogen & pest resistance: Plants of the new *Petunia* have not been observed to be resistant to pathogens and pests common to *Petunia* plants.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct *Petunia* plant named 'Sunsurf Akatoro' as illustrated and described.

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