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**Salmon**

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(54) **BRACTEANTHA PLANT NAMED**  
**'FLORABELLA WHITE'**

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(AU)

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(AU)

(\* ) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this  
patent is extended or adjusted under 35  
U.S.C. 154(b) by 19 days.

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(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **Plt./359**

(58) **Field of Search** ..... **Plt./359**

(56) **References Cited**  
**PUBLICATIONS**

GTITM UPOV ROM Citation for 'Florabella White' as per  
CA PBR 99-2000; Dec. 20, 1999.\*

\* cited by examiner

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Bracteantha bracteata* named  
'Florabella White', characterized by its upright, outwardly  
spreading and rounded plant form; compact plant habit;  
small lanceolate leaves; white-colored involucre bracts and  
yellow-colored disc florets; and short peduncles that hold  
inflorescences above the foliage.

**1 Drawing Sheet**

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**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar  
of *Bracteantha* plant, botanically known as *Bracteantha*  
*bracteata* and referred to by the cultivar name 'Florabella  
White'.

The new *Bracteantha* is a product of a planned breeding  
program conducted by the Inventor in Gapsted, Victoria,  
Australia. The objective of the program is to create and  
develop *Bracteantha* cultivars with a compact growth habit,  
small leaves, numerous inflorescences, bright involucre  
bract colors, and short peduncles.

The new *Bracteantha* originated from a cross by the  
Inventor of an unidentified yellow involucre bract-colored  
proprietary selection of *Bracteantha bracteata* as the female,  
or seed, parent with an unidentified white involucre  
bract-colored proprietary selection of *Bracteantha bracteata*  
as the male, or pollen, parent. The new *Bracteantha* was  
discovered and selected by the Inventor as a plant within the  
progeny of the stated cross in a controlled environment in  
Gapsted, Victoria, Australia in 1997. The selection of the  
new *Bracteantha* was based on its growth habit, leaf size and  
peduncle length as plants of the new *Bracteantha* are more  
compact, have smaller leaves and shorter peduncles than  
plants of the parent selections.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Bracteantha* by terminal  
cuttings taken in a controlled environment in Gapsted,  
Victoria, Australia, has shown that the unique features of this  
new *Bracteantha* are stable and reproduced true to type in  
successive generations.

The new *Bracteantha* has not been observed under all  
possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary  
somewhat with variations in environment such as tempera-  
ture, daylength, light intensity, photoperiod, and water and  
nutritional status without, however, any variance in geno-  
type.

The following characteristics have been repeatedly  
observed and are determined to be basic characteristics of  
'Florabella White' and distinguish the new *Bracteantha* as a  
new and distinct cultivar:

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1. Upright, outwardly spreading and rounded plant form.
2. Compact plant habit.
3. Small lanceolate leaves.
4. White-colored involucre bracts and yellow-colored  
disc florets.
5. Short peduncles that hold inflorescences above the  
foliage.

Plants of the new *Bracteantha* differ from its sibling  
cultivars, 'Florabella Gold', U.S. Plant patent application  
Ser. No. 09/740,532, and 'Florabella Pink', U.S. Plant patent  
application Ser. No. 09/740,534 primarily in involucre bract  
coloration.

The new *Bracteantha* can be compared to the *Bracteantha*  
*bracteata* cultivar 'Nullabor Spectrum', disclosed in U.S.  
Plant patent application Ser. No. 08/938,583 (abandoned). In  
side-by-side comparisons conducted by the Inventor in  
Gapsted, Victoria, Australia, plants of the new *Bracteantha*  
differ in involucre bract color and are more compact, have  
shorter and narrower leaves, and have slightly smaller  
inflorescences than plants of 'Nullabor Spectrum'.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH**

The accompanying colored photograph illustrates the  
overall appearance of the new cultivar, showing the colors as  
true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in colored repro-  
ductions of this type. Colors in the photograph may differ  
slightly from the color values cited in the detailed botanical  
description which accurately describe the colors of the new  
*Bracteantha*. The photograph comprises a side perspective  
view of a typical plant of 'Florabella White' in a container.

**DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION**

The following observations, measurements and values  
describe plants grown in Gapsted, Victoria, Australia, under  
outdoor conditions with day temperatures ranging from 15  
to 40° C., night temperatures ranging from 8 to 25° C., and  
light levels ranging from 5,000 to 9,000 foot candles. Rooted  
liners of the new *Bracteantha* were planted in 15-cm con-

tainers and grown for about 8 to 10 weeks. Color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

**Classification:**

*Botanical.*—*Bracteantha bracteata* cultivar ‘Florabella White’.

**Parentage:**

*Male or pollen parent.*—Unidentified white involucre bract-colored selection of *Bracteantha bracteata*, not patented.

*Female or seed parent.*—Unidentified yellow involucre bract-colored selection of *Bracteantha bracteata*, not patented.

**Propagation:**

*Type.*—By cuttings.

*Time to initiate roots.*—Summer: About 10 to 20 days at temperatures of 20 to 25° C. Winter: About 15 to 35 days at temperatures of 20° C.

*Root description.*—Fine to fibrous, freely branching.

**Plant description:**

*General appearance.*—Upright, outwardly spreading and rounded herbaceous plant with lanceolate foliage and inflorescences held above the foliage on short peduncles. Appropriate for 15 pots to 25-cm hanging basket containers.

*Crop time.*—Moderately fast growth rate; to produce a finished 15-cm containerized plant from rooted cuttings, about 8 to 10 weeks are required depending on temperature and light level.

*Plant height.*—About 30 to 45 cm from soil level to top of inflorescences.

*Plant width.*—About 35 to 45 cm.

*Branching.*—Moderate, removal of terminal apex enhances branching; typically about 5 to 12 lateral branches per plant.

*Lateral branch description.*—Length: About 9 to 26 cm. Width: About 4 to 6 mm. Internode length: About 0.8 to 2.5 cm. Texture: Slightly pubescent; sometimes with very faint ridges. Color: 143C.

*Foliage description.*—Arrangement: Alternate, single. Quantity: About 21 to more than 60 per lateral branch. Shape: Lanceolate. Margin: Entire; slightly recurved. Apex: Acute. Base: Decurrent, clasping. Length: About 2.9 to 11.8 cm. Width: About 0.4 to 1.8 cm. Texture: Thin; slightly rough; moderately pubescent on both surfaces. Color: Young leaves, upper surface: 147A. Young leaves, lower surface: 147B. Fully mature leaves, upper surface: 146A; venation, 144D. Fully mature leaves, lower surface: 146B; venation, 145B.

**Flowering description:**

*Inflorescence form.*—Daisy-type composite inflorescence form. Inflorescences arranged acropetally on a capitulum.

*Inflorescence longevity.*—Inflorescences last on the plant for 4 to 6 weeks and 2 to 3 weeks as a fresh cut flower, and more than 6 weeks as a dried cut flower. Inflorescences persistent.

*Natural flowering season.*—Natural flowering season is spring to fall. Plants flower continuously during this period. Inflorescences close when wet and open when dry.

*Quantity of inflorescences.*—About 1 to 3 inflorescences and about 2 to 4 flower buds per lateral branch.

*Inflorescence aspect.*—Flat to slightly cupped.

*Inflorescence diameter.*—About 4.2 to 5.1 cm.

*Inflorescence depth (height).*—About 1.6 to 2.2 cm.

*Disc diameter.*—About 1.2 to 2.2 cm.

*Fragrance.*—Slight honey.

*Involucre bracts.*—Appearance: Satiny. Texture: Papery. Aspect: Flat. Shape: Triangular. Margin: Entire. Apex: Acute. Base: Truncate. Length: About 0.9 to 1.8 cm. Width: About 2 to 6 mm. Color: When opening, upper surface: 156D to 155C. When opening, lower surface: 155A to 159C. Mature, upper surface: 155A to 155C; with development, to 158D. Mature, lower surface: 155A to 162D.

*Disc florets.*—Shape: Tubular with five lobes. Diameter: About 1 mm. Width: About 1 mm. Color: Immature: 145C. Mature: 25B.

*Peduncle.*—Length: About 12.5 to 18.2 cm. Aspect: Erect to about 25° from vertical. Strength: Moderately strong, brittle when young, inflorescences held erect above foliage. Color: 143C to 146D. Texture: Slightly rough and pubescent.

*Flower bud.*—Shape: Broadly ovoid. Length: About 1.2 to 1.6 cm. Diameter: About 1.2 to 1.7 cm. Color: 161A to 161D.

*Androecium.*—Only present on disc florets. Stamen number: One per disc floret. Anther shape: Linear. Anther color: 24B. Amount of pollen: Moderate. Pollen color: 23A.

*Gynoecium.*—Present on disc florets. Pistil number: One per disc floret. Style length: About 3 mm. Style color: 23C. Stigma shape: Bilobate. Stigma color: 23C.

*Seed.*—Seed production has been observed.

Disease resistance: Susceptible to White Rust, causal agent *Albugo candida*.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Bracteantha* plant named ‘Florabella White’, as illustrated and described.

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