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Schoone

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(54) **PHALAEOPSIS ORCHID PLANT NAMED**
‘TROUBADOUR’

(50) Latin Name: *Phalaenopsis hybrid*
Varietal Denomination: **Troubadour**

(75) Inventor: **René Schoone**, Assendelft (NL)

(73) Assignee: **Floricultura**, Heemskerk (NL)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 1 day.

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(30) **Foreign Application Priority Data**

Apr. 27, 2011 (NL) OPS794

(51) **Int. Cl.**
A01H 5/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
USPC **Plt./311**

(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 *Phalaenopsis* plant named ‘Troubadour’ particularly characterized by flowers which are off white with large purple marks; plants which may be propagated economically and uniformly using tissue culture; plants which produce more than one inflorescence; long and sturdy inflorescences; and relatively short, dark-green foliage.

3 Drawing Sheets

1

Latin name of the genus and species of the plant claimed:
Phalaenopsis hybrid.

Variety denomination: ‘Troubadour’.

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims priority to U.S. Provisional application Ser. No. 61/478,794, filed Apr. 25, 2011 and Netherlands Plant Breeders’ Right Application No. OPS794, filed Apr. 27, 2011. The disclosure of both prior applications are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of *Phalaenopsis* plant, botanically known as *Phalaenopsis* of the Orchidaceae family, and hereinafter referred to by the cultivar name ‘Troubadour’.

Phalaenopsis comprises a genus of about 55 species of herbaceous perennials many of which, or the hybrids thereof, are suitable for cultivation in the home or greenhouse. *Phalaenopsis* is predominantly epiphytic or rock-dwelling, and is native to tropical Asia, the Malay Archipelago, and Oceania. The species typically has 2-ranked, fleshy, oblong or elliptic leaves affixed to a short central stem (monopodial growth), which vary in size from 5 to 8 inches to over 2 feet. The leaves may be entirely green or mottled with silver grey.

Phalaenopsis orchids, often referred to as ‘Moth Orchids’ in the horticultural trade, are frequently used to furnish cut flowers for the florist trade or sold as flowering potted-plants for home or interiorscape.

Phalaenopsis produces upright or pendent lateral racemes, often with many showy flowers which open in succession beginning with the lowermost. The flowers possess three

2

sepals and three petals; the lateral ones being alike. The lowermost petal, called the labellum, is three-lobed and is often more brightly-colored than the other flower segments. Flower colors include various shades of pink, white, yellow and red-brown.

Phalaenopsis orchids are typically propagated from seeds. Asexual propagation of *Phalaenopsis* is often done from off-shoots which frequently arise from the lower bracts of the inflorescence. The resulting plants are detached from the mother plant and may be planted in a suitable substrate.

The new *Phalaenopsis* ‘Troubadour’ is a product of a controlled breeding program conducted by the inventor, René Schoone, in Strengweg, Heemskerk, The Netherlands. The objective of the breeding program was to develop a new *Phalaenopsis* cultivar particularly characterized by its attractive and unique colored flowers, economical propagation via tissue culture, rapid growth, and a plant dimension suitable for packaging and shipping to the market.

The new *Phalaenopsis* ‘Troubadour’ originated from a cross made by the inventor in 1998 in Strengweg, Heemskerk, The Netherlands. The female or seed parent is the *Phalaenopsis* cultivar designated ‘Hauer Jin Diamond’, unpatented. The male or pollen parent is the *Phalaenopsis* cultivar designated ‘Snow Leopard’, unpatented. The new *Phalaenopsis* ‘Troubadour’ was discovered and selected by the inventor as a single flowering plant within the progeny of the stated cross in a controlled environment in 2006 in Strengweg, Heemskerk, The Netherlands.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Phalaenopsis* cultivar by tissue culture was first performed in November, 2006 in Cieweg 13, Heemskerk, The Netherlands, and has demonstrated that the combination of characteristics as herein disclosed for the new cultivar are firmly fixed and retained

through successive generations of asexual reproduction. The new cultivar reproduces true to type.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and are determined to be unique characteristics of 'Troubadour', which in combination distinguish this *Phalaenopsis* as a new and distinct cultivar:

1. flowers which are off white with large purple marks;
2. plant produces more than one inflorescence;
3. plants may be propagated economically and uniformly using tissue culture;
4. inflorescences are long and sturdy; and
5. relatively short, dark-green foliage.

In comparison with the parental cultivars of 'Troubadour', the female parent 'Hauer Jin Diamond' has red/purple marked flowers with a red labellum, the male parent 'Snow Leopard' has white colored flowers with pink marks and a yellow/red labellum, whereas the flowers of 'Troubadour' are off white with large purple marks and a white/yellow labellum with purple marks.

Presently, there is no commercial cultivar to which 'Troubadour' can be meaningfully compared.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying photographs illustrate the overall appearance of the new *Phalaenopsis* 'Troubadour' showing the colors as true as is reasonably possible with 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 color of 'Troubadour'.

FIG. 1 shows a side view perspective of a typical flowering plant of 'Troubadour' in a 12 cm pot, at 16 months of age.

FIG. 2 shows a close-up view of the typical buds and flowers of 'Troubadour'.

FIG. 3 shows a close-up view of the typical leaves of 'Troubadour'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The new *Phalaenopsis* cultivar 'Troubadour' has not been observed under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype of the new cultivar may vary with variations in environment such as temperature, light intensity, and day length without any change in the genotype of the plant.

The aforementioned photographs, together with the following observations, measurements and values describe plants of 'Troubadour' as grown in a greenhouse in Strengweg, Heemskerk, The Netherlands, under conditions which closely approximate those generally used in commercial practice. Initially, the ideal temperature to grow plants of 'Troubadour' is 27° C. during the day and at night. Then, during the flowering phase of 'Troubadour', the ideal growing temperature is 20-22° C. during the day and 18° C. at night. Light levels for growing 'Troubadour' are a minimum of 5,000 lux and a maximum of 10,000 lux. A balanced fertilizer with level of 200 ppm N, 87 ppm P, 168 ppm K is applied. Duration of growth of 'Troubadour' from potting size is between 10 and 14 months.

Color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart (R.H.S.), 2007 edition, except where general colors of ordinary significance are used. Color values were taken under daylight conditions at approximately noon

in Zaandammerweg, Assendelft, The Netherlands. The age of the 'Troubadour' plants described is 12 months after potting.

Classification:

Botanical.—*Phalaenopsis* hybrid.

5 Parentage:

Female or seed parent.—*Phalaenopsis* cultivar designated 'Hauer Jin Diamond', unpatented.

Male or pollen parent.—*Phalaenopsis* cultivar designated 'Snow Leopard', unpatented.

10 Propagation:

Type.—Tissue culture.

Rooting habit and description.—Fleshy; approximately 5 mm-8 mm wide and greyed-green (RHS 191B) in color; freely branching. It takes 12 weeks for plants growing in tissue culture to initiate roots.

15 Plant:

Size at maturity.—Height: about 50 to 70 cm. Spread: about 30 to 60 cm.

Growth habit.—Small; green leaves (RHS N137A) and a relatively normal raceme.

Vigor.—Moderate.

Crop time.—Following asexual propagation, at about 26 weeks 2 leaves appear; at about 30 weeks 3-4 leaves appear; after a cold treatment of about 4-8 weeks at a temperature of about 19° C. about 2 peduncles with flowers appear.

25 Foliage:

Quantity per plant.—About 5 to 7 leaves are produced before flowering.

Arrangement and attachment.—Half up/horizontal and on two sides.

Overall shape of leaf.—Oval, the tip is blunt and asymmetric.

Texture (upper and under surface).—Smooth and leathery.

Pubescence.—None.

Mature leaf length.—About 18 to 21 cm.

Mature leaf width.—About 8 to 10 cm.

Mature leaf thickness.—About 2 mm.

Mature leaf color.—Upper side: green (RHS N137A). Under side: green (RHS 138A).

Leaf base.—Acute.

Margin.—Entire.

Venation.—Pattern: parallel. Color of midvein: upper side: green (RHS N137A). Under side: green (RHS 138A).

30 Raceme:

Quantity per plant.—About 1 to 2.

Number of flowers per raceme.—About 5 to 9.

Length.—About 45 cm to 60 cm.

Diameter.—About 6 mm.

Strength.—Strong.

Aspect.—Upright.

Texture.—Glabrous and smooth.

Color.—Grey-brown (RHS N199A) with yellow-green spots (RHS 144B).

Internode.—Length: about 28 to 40 mm.

35 Inflorescence description:

Appearance.—Upright to slightly pendant, racemose inflorescence with bilaterally symmetrical flowers that open in succession beginning with the lowermost flower.

Buds.—Height (from base to tip): about 15 mm to 25 mm. Diameter (at midpoint): about 13 mm to 20 mm.

Shape: egg-shaped. Color: green (RHS 143C) with some violet-blue (RHS N92A).

Flowering time.—For an untreated plant (flowering plant that has not undergone cold-treatment where the plant grows at a temperature of 18° C. to 19° C. for about 4 to 8 weeks after a period of about 30 weeks at a temperature of 25° C.), 2 racemes appear with about 16 to 20 flower buds and flowers per inflorescence. First flowers can be expected approximately 4 to 6 months after planting a plant with a leaf diameter of 3 to 5 cm. Flowers persistent.

Flowering longevity.—On the plant: about 4 to 6 months; lastingness of cut flowers: has not been observed.

Fragrance.—No fragrance.

Flower.—Rate of opening: Flowers fully opened about 2 to 3 days after petal and sepal separation. Orientation at opening: slanted upward and outward. Shape: Typical shape of *phalaenopsis* orchid; see FIG. 2. Size: Height: about 65 mm. Diameter: about 75 mm. Depth of tube: about 16 mm.

Petals.—Quantity and arrangement: six petals and sepals that are trimerous, overlapping and arranged in 2 whorls. Petals are more pronounced than sepals. Arrangement: Inner whorl of petals comprises 3 petals, 2 lateral petals and labellum. 2 lateral petals: Overall shape: broadly ovate and weakly cupped. Apex: oval. Margin: entire and weakly undulate. Base: broadly ovate. Length: about 42 mm. Width: about 32 mm. Texture: Upper surface: smooth and satiny. Under surface: smooth and satiny. Color (when fully opened): upper surface: main color is white (RHS 155B) (when just opened, main color is green-yellow RHS 1 C) with large purple marks (RHS N79B). Those marks have lighter purple edges (RHS N79C). Under surface: main color is white/greyed-white (RHS 155C and RHS 157B) with purple marks (RHS N80A and RHS 79C). Labellum: Overall shape: 3-lobed with 2 prominent callosities at central junction of the lateral lobes and base of the midlobe. Lateral lobes of labellum fold upward about the column; the midlobe extends forward and is terminated by 2 short filiform appendages at the apex. Lateral lobes of the labellum are ovate in shape while the midlobe is triangular with a bump and a rib on it. Margin: entire and weakly undulate. Apex: oval. Length: about 20 mm. Width (not flattened): about 20 mm to 30 mm. Texture: Upper and under surface: smooth and satiny. Color (when fully opened): Upper surface: midlobe is white (RHS NN155C) (when just opened, color is green-yellow RHS 1C) with large purple marks (RHS N79B and RHS N79C) and yel-

low edges (RHS 12A). The lateral lobes are white (RHS NN155C) with purple at the base. The edges are yellow/orange (RHS 14B) and have purple spots (RHS N79B and C). Pestle is purple (RHS N79A). Under surface: Midlobe: white (RHS NN155C) with purple marks (RHS N79B) and yellow/orange (RHS 14C). Lateral lobes: white (RHS NN155C) with some purple (RHS N79C and N79B) marks. Edges are yellow/orange (RHS 14C).

Chirri.—About 6 mm. Color: white (RHS NN155C). Pestle (Callosities): Length: about 4 mm. Width (not flattened): about 4 mm. Color: purple (RHS N79A). Front and sides are yellow/orange (RHS 17C).

Sepals.—Arrangement: Outer whorl comprises 3 sepals. Overall shape: elliptical and weakly cupped. Margin: entire and weakly undulate. Length: about 35 to 45 mm. Width: about 25 mm and 35 mm. Apex: oval/round (some with a notch). Texture: Upper and under surface: smooth and satiny. Color (when fully opened): upper surface: white (RHS 155B) (when just opened, color is green-yellow RHS 1C) with large purple marks (RHS N79B). The edges of the spots are lighter purple/red-purple (RHS 72B and RHS N79C). Under surface: yellow (RHS 2D) with purple marks (RHS N79B).

Pedical.—Length: about 35 mm. Diameter: about 3 mm. Texture: glabrous and smooth. Color: turns from purple (RHS N79B) into green-white (RHS 157A).

Reproductive organs:

Arrangement.—The stamens, style and stigmas are fused into a single, short structure called the column, possessing one terminal anther with pollen grains united into a pollinia, which are covered by an anther cap. The stigma is located under the column behind the pollinia. The ovary is inferior with three carpels present. The plant has not produced seed.

Column.—Length: about 12 mm. Diameter: about 6 mm. Color: white (RHS NN155C).

Pollinia.—Quantity: Two. Diameter: about 1 mm. Color: yellow/orange (RHS 17A).

Ovary.—Length: about 5 mm. Diameter: about 6 mm. Color: white (RHS NN155B) with some purple (RHS N78D).

Disease/pest resistance/susceptibility: No specific resistance or susceptibility observed.

Temperature tolerance: Tolerant to a low temperature of about 15° C. and to a high temperature about 30° C.

What is claimed is:

1. A new and distinct *Phalaenopsis* plant named 'Troubadour', as illustrated and described herein.

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FIG. 1

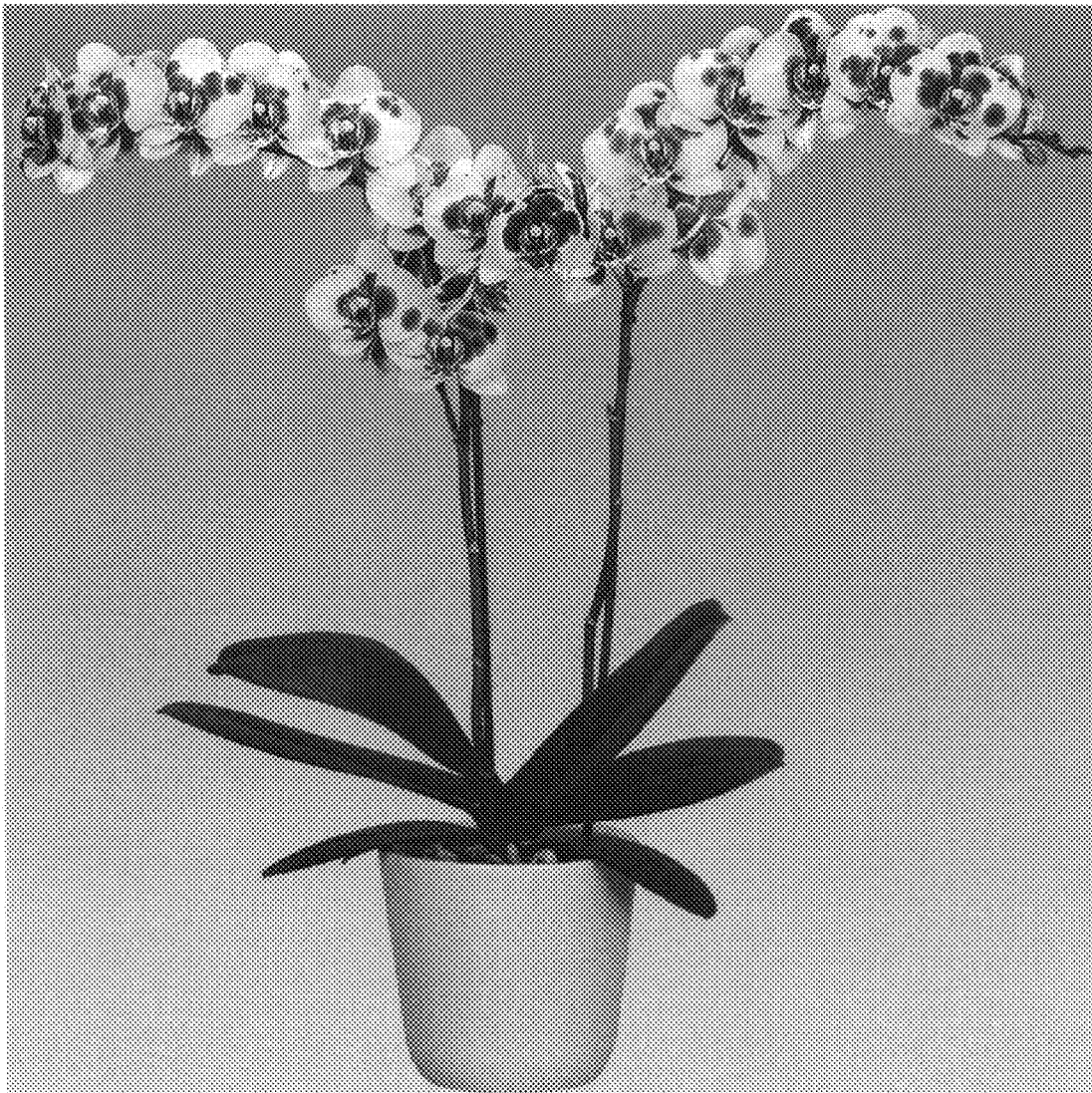


FIG. 2

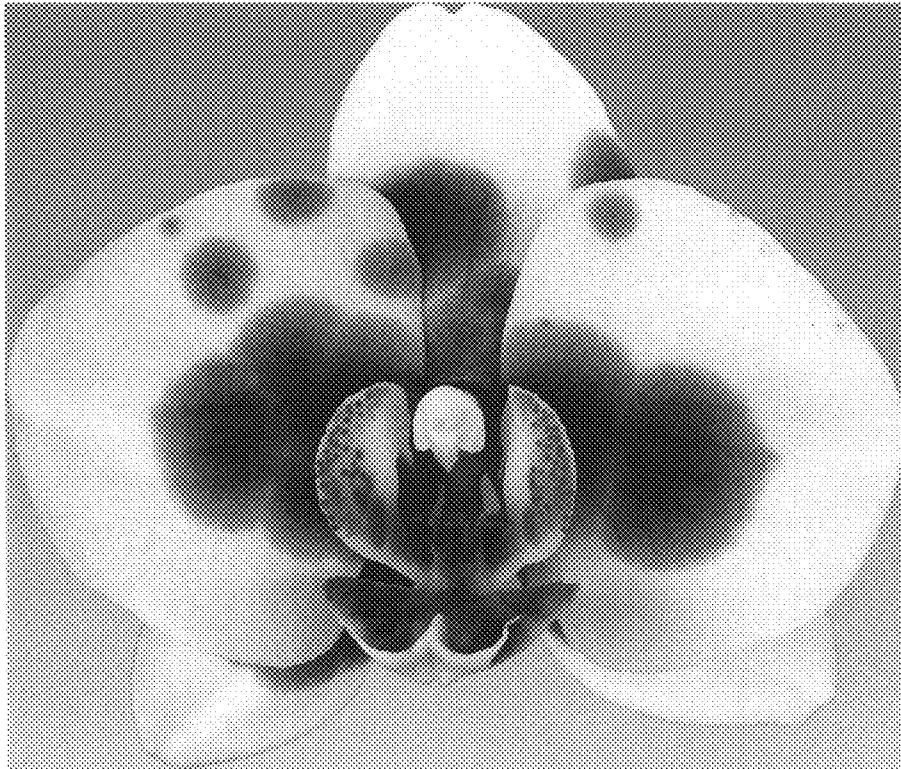


FIG. 3

