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(54) **VIOLA PLANT NAMED ‘HALO VIOLET’**

(50) Latin Name: *Viola cornuta*
Varietal Denomination: **Halo Violet**

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 87 days.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Viola* plant named ‘Halo Violet’, characterized by its dark violet and white-colored flowers having a central yellow splotch, medium green-colored foliage, and moderate to vigorous, mounded-spreading growth habit, is disclosed.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Latin name of genus and species of plant claimed: *Viola cornuta*.

Variety denomination: ‘Halo Violet’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of *Viola* plant botanically known as *Viola cornuta* and hereinafter referred to by the cultivar name ‘Halo Violet’.

The new cultivar originated in a controlled breeding program in Guadalupe, Calif. during April 2007. The objective of the breeding program was the development of *Viola* cultivars having large flowers with distinctive flower coloration and a mounded-spreading growth habit.

The new *Viola* cultivar is the result of cross-pollination. The female (seed) parent of the new cultivar is the proprietary *Viola cornuta* breeding selection coded 20421-2, not patented, characterized by its dark violet and white colored flowers having a central yellow splotch, medium green-colored foliage, and moderately vigorous, mounded growth habit. The male (pollen) parent of the new cultivar is the proprietary *Viola cornuta* breeding selection coded 20634-7, not patented, characterized by dark violet and white colored flowers having a central yellow splotch, medium green-colored foliage, and moderate to vigorous, spreading growth habit. The new cultivar was discovered and selected as a single flowering plant within the progeny of the above stated cross-pollination during September 2007 in a controlled environment in Guadalupe, Calif.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by terminal stem cuttings since September 2007 in Guadalupe, Calif. and Elburn, Ill. has demonstrated that the new cultivar reproduces true to type with all of the characteristics, as herein described, firmly fixed and retained through successive generations of such asexual propagation.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The following characteristics of the new cultivar have been repeatedly observed and can be used to distinguish ‘Halo Violet’ as a new and distinct cultivar of *Viola* plant:

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1. Dark violet and white-colored flowers having a central yellow splotch;
2. Medium green-colored foliage; and
3. Moderate to vigorous, mounded-spreading growth habit.

Plants of the new cultivar differ from plants of the female parent primarily in having a more spreading growth habit and in being more floriferous. Plants of the new cultivar differ from plants of the male parent primarily in having larger sized flowers and in being more floriferous.

Of the many commercially available *Viola* cultivars, the most similar in comparison to the new cultivar is ‘Etain’, not patented. However, in comparison, plants of the new cultivar differ from plants of ‘Etain’ in at least the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new cultivar have a darker-colored petal margin than plants of ‘Etain’; and
2. Plants of the new cultivar have a more spreading habit than plants of ‘Etain’.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying photographs show, as nearly true as it is reasonably possible to make the same in color illustrations of this type, typical flower and foliage characteristics of the new cultivar. Colors in the photographs differ slightly from the color values cited in the detailed description, which accurately describes the colors of ‘Halo Violet’. The plants were grown in 2-gallon pots for 11 months a greenhouse in Elburn, Ill. Plants were given one pinch at transplant.

FIG. 1 illustrates a side view of the overall growth and flowering habit of ‘Halo Violet’.

FIG. 2 illustrates a close-up view of an inflorescence of ‘Halo Violet’.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The new cultivar has not been observed under all possible environmental conditions to date. Accordingly, it is possible that the phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in the

environment, such as temperature, light intensity, and day length, without, however, any variance in genotype.

The chart used in the identification of colors described herein is The R.H.S. Colour Chart of The Royal Horticultural Society, London, England, 2007 edition, except where general color terms of ordinary significance are used. The color values were determined in June 2012 under natural light conditions in West Chicago, Ill.

The following descriptions and measurements describe plants produced from cuttings from stock plants and grown in a glass-covered greenhouse under conditions comparable to those used in commercial practice. The plants were grown in Elburn, Ill. in 2-gallon pots for 11 months utilizing a soilless growth medium. Plants were given one pinch at transplant. Greenhouse temperatures were maintained at approximately 45° F. to 65° F. (7.2° C. to 18.3° C.) during the day and approximately 35° F. to 45° F. (1.7° C. to 7.2° C.) during the night. No supplemental lighting was provided. Measurements and numerical values represent averages of typical plants.

Botanical classification: *Viola cornuta* cultivar Halo Violet.

Parentage:

Female parent.—Proprietary *Viola cornuta* breeding selection coded 20421-2, not patented.

Male parent.—Proprietary *Viola cornuta* breeding selection coded 20634-7, not patented.

Propagation:

Type cutting.—Terminal stem.

Time to initiate roots.—Approximately 10 to 12 days.

Time to produce a rooted cutting.—Approximately 24 to 28 days.

Root description.—Fine, fibrous.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching.

Plant description:

Commercial crop time.—Approximately 8 to 10 weeks from a rooted cutting to finish in a 10 cm pot.

Growth habit and general appearance.—Moderately vigorous, mounded- spreading.

Size.—Height from soil level to top of plant plane: Approximately 20.0 cm. Width: Approximately 50.0 cm.

Branching habit.—Freely basal branching. Quantity of main branches per plant: Approximately 42.

Lateral branches.—Strength: Strong, flexible. Length: Approximately 20.0 cm. Diameter: Approximately 4.0 mm. Length of central internode: Approximately 1.6 cm. Texture: Glabrous. Color of young and mature stems: 144A.

Foliage description:

General description.—Quantity of leaves per main branch: Approximately 16. Fragrance: None. Form: Simple. Arrangement: Alternate.

Leaves.—Aspect: Petiole is at an acute angle to stem and leaf blade is perpendicular to downward turning. Shape: Narrowly ovate. Margin: Crenate. Apex: Obtuse. Base: Rounded to truncate. Venation pattern: Pinnate. Length of mature leaf at center of stem: Approximately 3.8 cm. Width of mature leaf at center of stem: Approximately 2.4 cm. Texture of upper and lower surfaces: Glabrous. Color of upper surface of young foliage: N137C with midvein of 145A and other venation indistinguishable from lamina. Color of lower surface of young and mature foliage: Closest to 138A with venation of 137A. Color of upper sur-

face of mature foliage: N137C with midvein of 144A and other venation indistinguishable from lamina.

Petiole.—Length: Approximately 2.5 cm. Diameter: Approximately 2.0 mm. Texture: Glabrous. Color: 144A.

Stipules.—Shape: Narrowly Ovate. Margin: Pinnately parted. Apex: Obtuse. Base: Obtuse. Length: Approximately 3.0 cm. Width: Approximately 1.5 cm. Texture of upper and lower surfaces: Glabrous. Color of upper surface: N137C. Color of lower surface: Closest to 138A.

Flowering description:

Flowering habit.—‘Halo Violet’ is freely flowering under outdoor growing conditions with substantially continuous blooming from spring through autumn and with limited flowering under short winter days in a greenhouse environment.

Lastingness of individual flower on the plant.—Approximately 5 to 7 days.

Flower description:

General description.—Type: Single, zygomorphic, not persistent. Flower aspect: Outward facing to pendant. Quantity per plant: Approximately 110. Fragrance: Slightly sweet.

Bud.—Rate of opening: Generally takes 2 to 3 days for bud to progress from first color to fully open flower. Quantity showing color per plant: Approximately 40.

Bud just before opening.—Shape: Oblong. Length: Approximately 1.4 cm. Diameter: Approximately 5.0 mm. Color: 86A.

Corolla.—Shape: Orbicular, with a spur on lower petal. Length: Approximately 3.6 cm. Width: Approximately 3.4 cm. Depth: Approximately 1.2 cm.

Petals.—Quantity: Five in a single whorl; two upper petals, two lateral petals and one lower petal, spurred. Shape of upper and lateral petals: Obovate. Shape of lower petal: Obcordate. Appearance: Velvety. Margin of all petals: Entire, slightly undulate. Apex of upper and lateral petals: Rounded. Apex of lower petal: Obcordate. Base of all petals: Attenuate. Length of upper petals: Approximately 2.1 cm. Width of upper petals: Approximately 2.3 cm. Length of lateral petals: Approximately 2.2 cm. Width of lateral petals: Approximately 2.1 cm. Length of lower petal: Approximately 2.3 cm. Width of lower petal: Approximately 2.6 cm. Texture of upper surface: Glabrous, with base of lateral and lower petals densely glandular pubescent. Texture of lower surface: Glabrous. Color of upper surface of upper and lateral petals when first open: Base of NN155B, centers of 86B to 86A, and margins of closest to but darker than 86A, lateral petals have an overlay of 4B and stripes of N92A near base. Color of lower surface of upper and lateral petals when first open: 86B with NN155A at base. Color of upper surface of lower petal when first open: Base of NN155B with a heavy overlay of 15A forming a splotch with stripes of N92A, transitions towards margins through 86B to 86A, and margins of closest to but darker than 86A. Color of lower surface of lower petal when first open: NN155A with 86B to 86A at margin. Color of upper surface of upper and lateral petals when fully open: Base of NN155B, centers of 86B, and margins of closest to 86A, lateral petals have an overlay of 4B and stripes of N92A near base. Color of lower surface of upper and lateral petals

when fully open: 86C with NN155A at base. Color of upper surface of lower petal when fully open: Base of NN155B with a heavy overlay of 15A to 4B forming a splotch with stripes of N92A, transitions towards margins through 86B to 86A, margins of closest to but darker than 86A. Color of lower surface of lower petal when fully open: NN155A with 86B at margin.

Spur.—Quantity: 1 per flower. Length: Approximately 9.0 mm Diameter at proximal end: Approximately 2.0 mm Diameter at distal end: Approximately 1.0 mm. Color: Closest to 188C.

Calyx.—Shape: Star. Diameter: Approximately 1.9 cm.

Sepals.—Quantity per flower: 5 in a single whorl. Shape: Lanceolate. Apex: Acute. Base: Acute to rounded. Length: Approximately 1.6 cm. Width: Approximately 4.0 mm. Texture of upper and lower surfaces: Glabrous. Color of upper and lower surfaces: 138A.

Peduncle.—Strength: Moderately strong, flexible. Aspect: Acute angle to stem. Length: Approximately 6.5 cm. Diameter: Approximately 2.0 mm. Texture: Glabrous. Color: 144A.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium: Stamen quantity: 5 per flower, tightly appressed against ovary. Stamen length: Approximately 3.5 mm, two bear nectar spurs of approximately 4.0 mm in length. Anther shape: Ellipsoidal. Anther length: Approximately 3.0 mm. Anther width: Approximately 2.0 mm. Anther color: 155D with 165B at apex. Pollen amount: Sparse. Pollen color: NN155A. Gynoecium: Pistil quantity: 1 per flower. Pistil length: Approximately 6.0 mm. Stigma shape: Globular. Stigma length: Approximately 1.0 mm. Stigma color: 145B. Style color: 145D. Ovary length: 4.0 mm. Ovary color: 145B.

Seed and fruit production: Neither seed nor fruit production has been observed.

Disease and pest resistance: Resistance to pathogens and pests common to *Viola* has not been observed.

What is claimed is:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Viola* plant named 'Halo Violet', substantially as herein shown and described.

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FIG. 1



FIG. 2