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Salmon

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

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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 19 days.

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

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

(56) **References Cited**
PUBLICATIONS

GTITM UPOVROM Citation for 'Florabella Pink' as per
CA PBR 99-1999; Dec. 20, 1999.*

* cited by examiner

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Bracteantha bracteata* named
'Florabella Pink', characterized by its upright, outwardly
spreading and rounded plant form; compact plant habit;
small lanceolate leaves; pink and white bi-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
Pink'.

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,
unique involucre bract-coloration and peduncle length as
plants of the new *Bracteantha* are more compact, have
smaller leaves, have pink and white bi-colored involucre
bracts, 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

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'Florabella Pink' and distinguish the new *Bracteantha* as a
new and distinct cultivar:

1. Upright, outwardly spreading and rounded plant form.
2. Compact plant habit.
3. Small lanceolate leaves.
4. Pink and white bi-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 White', U.S. Plant
patent application Ser. No. 09/740,535 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*
are more compact, have shorter and narrower leaves and
have slightly smaller inflorescences than plants of 'Nullabor
Spectrum'.

The new *Bracteantha* can also be compared to the *Brac-*
teantha bracteata cultivar 'Pink Sunrise', not patented. In
side-by-side comparisons conducted by the Inventor in
Gapsted, Victoria, Australia, plants of the new *Bracteantha*
are taller, have shorter and narrower leaves, and brighter
pink involucre bract coloration than plants of 'Pink Sun-
rise'.

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 Pink' 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 containers 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 Pink'.

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 10 to 25 cm. Width: About 4 to 7 mm. Internode length: About 0.9 to 3.7 cm. Texture: Slightly pubescent; sometimes with very faint ridges. Color: 143C.

Foliage description.—Arrangement: Alternate, single. Quantity: About 22 to 57 per lateral branch. Shape: Lanceolate to broadly linear. Margin: Entire; flat or slightly recurved. Apex: Acute. Base: Decurrent, clasping. Length: About 3.4 to 14.6 cm. Width: About 0.8 to 2.5 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: 147A, venation, 144B. Fully mature leaves, lower surface: 147B; venation, 144A.

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 5 flower buds per lateral branch.

Inflorescence aspect.—Flat to slightly cupped.

Inflorescence diameter.—About 4.4 to 5.7 cm.

Inflorescence depth (height).—About 1.6 to 2.3 cm.

Disc diameter.—About 1.6 to 2.1 cm.

Fragrance.—Slight honey.

Involucre bracts.—Appearance: Satiny. Texture: Papery. Aspect: Flat. Shape: Triangular. Margin: Entire. Apex: Acute. Base: Truncate. Length: About 0.8 to 1.9 cm. Width: About 2 to 5 mm. Color: When opening, upper surface: Towards apices, 66C; towards base, 62D. When opening, lower surface: Towards apices, 62A; towards base, 165D. Mature, upper surface: Towards apices, 66C to 62A; towards base, 158B. Mature, lower surface: Towards apices, 62A; towards base, 165D.

Disc florets.—Shape: Tubular with five lobes. Diameter: About 1 mm. Width: About 1 mm. Color: Immature: 154C. Mature: 24A.

Peduncle.—Length: About 10 to 17.5 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; pubescent.

Flower bud.—Shape: Ovoid. Length: About 1.3 to 1.8 cm. Diameter: About 1.3 to 1.8 cm. Color: Towards apex, 70A; towards base, 156C.

Androecium.—Only present on disc florets. Stamen number: One per disc floret. Anther shape: Linear. Anther color: 23B. 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: 23A to 23B. Stigma shape: Bilobate. Stigma color: 23A.

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 Pink', as illustrated and described.

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