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(12) **United States Plant Patent**
Ramirez

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(54) **SOLENOSTEMON PLANT NAMED**
'BALCENNA'

(58) **Field of Classification Search** Plt./373
See application file for complete search history.

(50) Latin Name: *Solenostemon Scutellarioides*
Varietal Denomination: **Balcenna**

(56) **References Cited**

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PUBLICATIONS

(73) Assignee: **Ball Horticultural Company**, West
Chicago, IL (US)

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pared.

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this
patent is extended or adjusted under 35
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(21) Appl. No.: **11/809,819**

(57) **ABSTRACT**

(22) Filed: **Jun. 1, 2007**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Solenostemon* plant named
'Balcenna', characterized by its red-brown and green-
colored foliage and vigorous, upright growth habit.

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

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./373**

1 Drawing Sheet

1

2

Latin name of genus and species of plant claimed: *Sole-
nostemon scutellarioides*.
Variety denomination: 'Balcenna'.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of *Solenostemon* plant botanically known as *Solenostemon*
scutellarioides and hereinafter referred to by the cultivar
name 'Balcenna'.

The following characteristics of the new cultivar have
been repeatedly observed and can be used to distinguish
'Balcenna' as a new and distinct cultivar of *Solenostemon*
plant:

1. Red-brown and green-colored foliage; and
2. Vigorous, upright growth habit.

The new cultivar originated in a controlled breeding pro-
gram in Dulce Nombre de Cartago, Costa Rica during Janu-
ary 2004. The objective of the breeding program was the
development of *Solenostemon* cultivars with unique foliage
coloration and leaf shape, upright growth habit, and good
sun tolerance.

Plants of the new cultivar differ from plants of the female
parent primarily in foliage color and from plants of the male
parent primarily in foliage color.

The new *Solenostemon* cultivar is the result of cross-
pollination. The female (seed) parent of the new cultivar is
'Duck's Foot', not patented, characterized by its medium
scarlet-colored foliage and upright growth habit. The male
(pollen) parent of the new cultivar is a Wizard™ mixed pol-
len source, not patented, having plants with green, red,
magenta, yellow-green, and scarlet red-colored foliage and
upright growth habit. The new cultivar was discovered and
selected as a single flowering plant within the progeny of the
above stated cross-pollination during November 2004 in a
controlled environment at Dulce Nombre de Cartago, Costa
Rica.

Of the many commercially available *Solenostemon*
cultivars, the most similar in comparison to the new cultivar
is 'Rustic Orange', not patented. However, in side by side
comparisons, plants of the new cultivar differ from plants of
'Rustic Orange' in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new cultivar are taller than plants of 'Rus-
tic Orange';
2. Plants of the new cultivar have a foliage color different
from plants of 'Rustic Orange'; and
3. Plants of the new cultivar have a leaf margin different
from plants of 'Rustic Orange'.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by terminal stem
cuttings since November 2004 at Dulce Nombre de Cartago,
Costa Rica and West Chicago, 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.

The accompanying photographs show, as nearly true as it
is reasonably possible to make the same in color illustrations
of this type, typical foliage characteristics of the new culti-
var. Colors in the photographs differ slightly from the color
values cited in the detailed description, which accurately
describes the colors of 'Balcenna'. The plants were grown in
4.5 inch pots for 7 weeks in a greenhouse at West Chicago,
Ill.

FIG. 1 illustrates a side view of the overall growth and
habit of 'Balcenna'.

FIG. 2 illustrates a close-up view of an individual leaf of 'Balcenna'.

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, 2001 edition, except where general color terms of ordinary significance are used. The color values were determined on Mar. 21, 2007 between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. 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 at West Chicago, Ill. in 4.5 inch pots for 7 weeks utilizing a soilless growth medium. Greenhouse temperatures were maintained at approximately 70° F. to 77° F. (21° C. to 25° C.) during the day and approximately 65° F. to 68° F. (18° C. to 20° C.) during the night. Greenhouse light levels of 2,500 footcandles to 6,000 footcandles were maintained during the day.

Botanical classification: *Solenostemon scutellarioides* cultivar Balcenna.

Parentage:

Female parent.—'Duck's Foot', not patented.

Male parent.—Wizard™ mixed pollen source, not patented.

Propagation:

Type cutting.—Terminal stem.

Time to initiate roots.—Approximately 4 to 6 days.

Time to produce a rooted cutting.—Approximately 21 to 24 days.

Root description.—Fibrous.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching.

Plant description:

Commercial crop time.—Approximately 5 to 7 weeks from a rooted cutting to finish in a 10 cm pot.

Growth habit and general appearance.—Vigorous, upright.

Size.—Height from soil level to top of plant plane: Approximately 31.4 cm. Width: Approximately 22.7 cm.

Branching habit.—Freely branching; pinching improves basal branching. Quantity of lateral branches per plant: Approximately 8.

Branch.—Strength: Strong. Shape: Square in cross section. Length of basal lateral branch: Approximately 10.5 cm. Diameter of basal lateral branch at central internode: Approximately 3.8 mm. Length of central internode of basal lateral branch: Approximately 2.9 cm. Texture: Densely pubescent. Pubescence color: N186C. Color of young stem: N186B. Color of mature stem: N186A.

Foliage description:

General description.—Quantity of leaves per main stem: Approximately 12. Fragrance: None. Form: Simple. Arrangement: Opposite.

Leaves.—Aspect: Acute angle to stem; leaf blade transitions to an obtuse angle with age. Shape: Ovate. Margin: Deeply serrate; occasionally biserrate, ruffled. Apex: Acute. Base: Truncate to slightly oblique. Venation pattern: Pinnate. Length of mature leaf: Approximately 11.5 cm. Width of mature leaf: Approximately 9.5 cm. Texture of upper surface: Rugose, densely pubescent. Texture of lower surface: Rugose, sparsely pubescent with dense pubescence on venation. Pubescence color: N186D. Color of upper surface of young foliage: 144C with varying degrees of an overlay of 187B and venation of N186D. Color of lower surface of young and mature foliage: N186C with venation of N186D. Color of upper surface of mature foliage: 144C with varying degrees of an overlay of 184B and venation of N186D.

Petiole.—Length: Approximately 3.2 cm. Diameter: Approximately 3.0 mm. Texture: Densely pubescent. Pubescence color: N186D. Color: N186C.

Flowering description: Flowers are ornamentally insignificant for this variety. No flowers were observed in this trial. Seed and fruit production: Neither seed nor fruit production has been observed.

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

What is claimed is:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Solenostemon* plant named 'Balcenna', substantially as herein shown and described.

* * * * *



FIG. 1

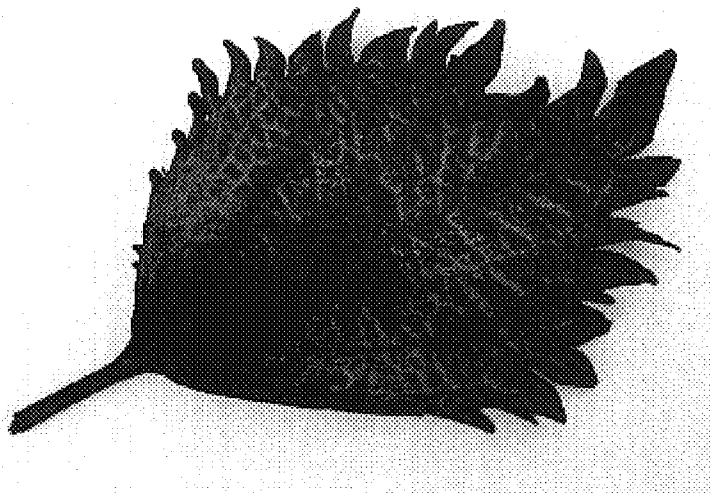


FIG. 2