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Bunker

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(54) **BRACTEANTHA PLANT NAMED**
'FLOBRAFLA'

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./263**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** **Plt./263**
See application file for complete search history.

(50) Latin Name: *Bracteantha bracteata*
Varietal Denomination: **Flobrafla**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this
patent is extended or adjusted under 35
U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

A new and distinct cultivar of *Bracteantha* named
'Flobrafla', characterized by its compact and bushy growth
habit; upright and rounded plant form; freely-flowering
habit; bronzed orange and golden yellow bi-colored involu-
cral bracts and golden yellow-colored disc florets; and short
and strong peduncles that hold inflorescences above the
foliage.

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(22) Filed: **Apr. 15, 2005**

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

1 Drawing Sheet

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Botanical designation: *Bracteantha bracteata*.
Cultivar denomination: 'Flobrafla'.

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

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 name 'Flobrafla'.

The new *Bracteantha* is a product of a planned breeding
program conducted by the Inventor in Redland Bay, 10
Queensland, Australia. The objective of the program is to
create and develop new compact *Bracteantha* cultivars with
numerous inflorescences, attractive involucre bract colora-
tion and long-lasting inflorescences.

The new *Bracteantha* originated from a cross-pollination 15
by the Inventor in January, 1999, of a proprietary selection
of *Bracteantha bracteata* identified as code number 97-004,
not patented, as the female, or seed, parent with an unknown
selection of *Bracteantha bracteata*, as the male, or pollen,
parent. The new *Bracteantha* was discovered and selected 20
by the Inventor as a plant within the progeny of the stated
cross-pollination in a controlled environment in Redland
Bay, Queensland, Australia in September, 2000.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Bracteantha* by terminal 25
cuttings in a controlled environment in Redland Bay,
Queensland, Australia since May, 2001, has shown that the
unique features of this new *Bracteantha* are stable and
reproduced true to type in successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The new *Bracteantha* has not been observed under all 30
possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary
somewhat with variations in environment such as tempera-
ture and light intensity without, however, any variance in
genotype. 35

The following characteristics have been repeatedly
observed and are determined to be basic characteristics of

1. Compact and bushy growth habit.
2. Upright and rounded plant form.
3. Freely-flowering habit.
4. Bronzed orange and golden yellow bi-colored involu-
cral bracts and golden yellow-colored disc florets.
5. Short and strong peduncles that hold inflorescences
above the foliage.

Plants of the new *Bracteantha* can be compared to plants
of the female parent selection. In side-by-side comparisons
conducted by the Inventor in Redland Bay, Queensland,
Australia, plants of the new *Bracteantha* differed from plants
of the female parent selection in the following characteris-
tics:

1. Plants of the new *Bracteantha* were more compact and
denser than plants of the female parent selection.
2. Plants of the new *Bracteantha* and the female parent
selection differed in involucre bract coloration as
plants of the female plant had orange-colored involu-
cral bracts.

Plants of the new *Bracteantha* can also be compared to
plants of the cultivar Redbragol, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat.
No. 12,988. In side-by-side comparisons conducted by the
Inventor in Redland Bay, Queensland, Australia, plants of
the new *Bracteantha* differed from plants of the cultivar
Redbragol in the following characteristics:

1. Inflorescences of plants of the new *Bracteantha* were
flat and not as cupped as inflorescences of plants of the
cultivar Redbragol.
2. Plants of the new *Bracteantha* were more freely flow-
ering than plants of the cultivar Redbragol.
3. Inflorescences of plants of the new *Bracteantha* had
fewer involucre bracts and disc florets than inflores-
cences of plants of the cultivar Redbragol.
4. Plants of the new *Bracteantha* and the cultivar Red-
bragol differed in involucre bract coloration as plants

of the cultivar Redbragol had yellow-colored involucre bracts.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying colored photographs illustrate the overall appearance of the new cultivar, showing the colors as true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in 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 colors of the new *Bracteantha*.

The photograph at the top of the sheet comprises a side perspective view of a typical plant of 'Flobrafla' grown in a container.

The photograph at the bottom of the sheet is a close-up view of a typical inflorescence of 'Flobrafla'. Plants used in the photographs were grown in 14-cm containers and were about three months old.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The following observations and measurements describe plants grown in Redland Bay, Queensland, Australia during the spring and summer under full sun outdoor conditions, day temperatures ranging from 22 to 35° C. and night temperatures ranging from 15 to 20° C. Rooted liners of the new *Bracteantha* were planted in 250-mm containers and grown for about six months. Color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 1995 Edition, except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

Botanical classification: *Bracteantha bracteata* cultivar Flobrafla.

Parentage:

Female or seed parent.—Proprietary selection of *Bracteantha bracteata* identified as code number 97-004, not patented.

Male or pollen parent.—Unknown selection of *Bracteantha bracteata*.

Propagation:

Type.—By cuttings.

Time to initiate roots.—Summer: About one week at 30° C. Winter: About two weeks at 20° C.

Time to produce a rooted young plant.—Summer: About three weeks at 30° C. Winter: About four weeks at 20° C.

Root description.—Fine to fibrous; pale brown in color.

Rooting habit.—Freely-branching.

Plant description:

General appearance.—Compact and bushy growth habit; upright and rounded plant form with dense foliage and inflorescences held above the foliage on short peduncles. Vigorous growth habit. Freely branching, about 202 lateral branches per plant.

Plant height.—About 25 cm.

Plant width.—About 45 cm.

Lateral branch description.—Length: About 24 cm. Width: About 5 mm. Internode length: About 8 mm. Aspect: Erect. Strong: Strong. Texture: Slightly pubescent. Color: 147C.

Foliage description.—Arrangement: Alternate, single; sessile. Length: About 6.1 cm. Width: About 1.1 cm. Shape: Linear elliptic. Apex: Acute. Base: Attenuate. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Venation pattern: Pinnate. Color: Developing leaves, upper surface: 137B. Developing

leaves, lower surface: 137C. Fully expanded leaves, upper surface: 137A; venation, 137A. Fully expanded leaves, lower surface: 137C; venation, 147C.

Flowering description:

Inflorescence form.—Daisy-type composite inflorescence form. Involucral bracts and disc florets develop arranged acropetally on a capitulum. Inflorescences circular in shape; flattened.

Inflorescence longevity.—Inflorescences last on the plant for about 36 days. Inflorescences persistent.

Natural flowering season.—Natural flowering season is year-round in Redland Bay, Queensland, Australia; flowering continuous.

Quantity of inflorescences.—One terminal inflorescence per lateral branch, about 192 open inflorescences and inflorescence buds per plant.

Fragrance.—Moderate; sweet.

Inflorescence diameter.—About 3.5 cm.

Inflorescence depth (height).—About 1.1 cm.

Disc diameter.—About 1 cm.

Receptacle diameter.—About 1 cm.

Receptacle height.—About 1.2 mm.

Inflorescence buds.—Length: About 1.5 cm. Diameter: About 1.6 cm. Shape: Roughly ovoid. Color: Mostly 167B; towards the apex, 166A; mid-section, 172B.

Involucral bracts.—Quantity per inflorescence: About 90 in multiple whorls. Length: About 1.2 cm. Width: About 5.5 mm. Shape: Ligulate, concave. Apex: Acute. Base: Truncate. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, papery, stiff. Color: Inner whorls, upper surface: 7B. Center whorls, upper surface: 17A. Outer whorls, upper surface: Towards the apex, 178B to 172C; towards the base, 17A. Inner whorls, lower surface: 7B. Center whorls, lower surface: 17B. Outer whorls, lower surface: 172B.

Disc florets.—Arrangement: Massed in the center of the receptacle with one whorl of filiform florets at the perimeter of the disc. Quantity per inflorescence: About 363. Shape: Tubular with five lobes. Length: About 8.5 mm. Diameter, apex: About 0.8 mm. Diameter, base: About 0.7 mm. Color, immature and mature: 23B.

Peduncle.—Length: About 2 cm. Diameter: About 2 mm. Aspect: Erect. Strength: Strong. Texture: Slightly pubescent. Color: 147C.

Androecium.—Present only on disc florets; minute. Arrangement: Fused anther tube with five long thin linear anthers surrounding the style. Anther length: Less than 1 mm. Anther color: Yellow. Amount of pollen: Moderate. Pollen color: Yellow.

Gynoecium.—Present on both filiform and disc florets; minute. Quantity per floret: One. Style color: 23A. Stigma shape: Bi-parted. Stigma color: 23A.

Seed.—Length: About 2.4 mm. Diameter: About 0.9 mm. Color: 200C.

Disease/pest resistance: Plants of the new *Bracteantha* have not been observed to be resistant to pathogens or pests common to *Bracteantha*.

Temperature tolerance: Plants of the new *Bracteantha* have been observed to tolerate temperatures from -4 to 40° C. It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Bracteantha* plant named 'Flobrafla', as illustrated and described.

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