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Klemm

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(54) ***OSTEOSPERMUM* PLANT NAMED 'KLEOE05520'**

(50) Latin Name: ***Osteospermum ecklonis***
Varietal Denomination: **KLEOE05520**

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(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./360**
(58) **Field of Classification Search** Plt./360
See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Osteospermum* plant named 'KLEOE05520', characterized by its upright and compact plant habit; freely branching growth habit; early and freely flowering habit; and daisy-type inflorescences with spoon-shaped dark pink-colored ray florets.

1 Drawing Sheet

Botanical designation: *Osteospermum ecklonis.*
Cultivar denomination: 'KLEOE05520'.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of *Osteospermum* plant, botanically known as *Osteospermum ecklonis,* and hereinafter referred to by the name 'KLEOE05520'.

The new *Osteospermum* is a product of a planned breeding program conducted by the Inventor in Stuttgart, Germany. The objective of the program is to create and develop new compact *Osteospermum* cultivars with freely branching and uniformly mounded plant habit, early and freely flowering habit and attractive inflorescence coloration.

The new *Osteospermum* originated from an open-pollination by the Inventor in 2001 of an unnamed proprietary selection of *Osteospermum ecklonis,* not patented, as the female, or seed, parent with an unknown selection of *Osteospermum ecklonis* as the male, or pollen, parent. The new *Osteospermum* was discovered and selected by the Inventor as a single flowering plant within the progeny of the stated open-pollination in a controlled environment in Stuttgart, Germany in April, 2002.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Osteospermum* by terminal cuttings in a controlled environment in Stuttgart, Germany since May, 2002, has shown that the unique features of this new *Osteospermum* are stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The cultivar KLEOE05520 has not been observed under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in environment such as temperature, daylength and light intensity, without, however, any variance in genotype.

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and are determined to be the unique characteristics of 'KLEOE05520'. These characteristics in combination distinguish 'KLEOE05520' as a new and distinct cultivar of *Osteospermum:*

1. Upright and compact plant habit.
2. Freely branching growth habit.
3. Early and freely flowering habit.
4. Daisy-type inflorescences with spoon-shaped dark pink-colored ray florets.

In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Stuttgart, Germany, plants of the new *Osteospermum* differ from plants of the female parent selection in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Osteospermum* are more compact and uniform than plants of the female parent selection.
2. Plants of the new *Osteospermum* and the female parent selection differ in ray floret coloration.

Plants of the new *Osteospermum* can be compared to plants of the *Osteospermum* cultivar FP Pink, not patented. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Stuttgart, Germany, plants of the new *Osteospermum* differed from plants of the cultivar FP Pink in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Osteospermum* were shorter and have shorter internodes than plants of the cultivar FP Pink.
2. Plants of the new *Osteospermum* had smaller inflorescences than plants of the cultivar FP Pink.
3. Plants of the new *Osteospermum* and the cultivar FP Pink differed in ray floret shape as plants of the cultivar FP Pink had obovate-shaped ray florets.
4. Plants of the new *Osteospermum* and the cultivar FP Pink differed in ray floret coloration as plants of the cultivar FP Pink had light pink-colored ray florets.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH

The accompanying photograph illustrates the overall appearance of the new *Osteospermum.* This photograph shows the colors as true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in colored reproductions 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 *Osteospermum.* The photograph comprises a close-up view of typical flowering plants of 'KLEOE05520'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

In the following description, color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 1995 Edition, except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used. The aforementioned photograph, following observations and measurements describe plants grown in Stuttgart, Germany during the summer in an outdoor nursery and under conditions and practices which approximate those generally used in commercial *Osteospermum* production. During the production of the plants, day temperatures ranged from 15° C. to 20° C. and night ranged from 10° C. to 15° C. Measurements and numerical values represent averages for typical flowering plants. Plants were about six months old when the photograph and description were taken.

Botanical classification: *Osteospermum ecklonis* cultivar KLEOE05520.

Parentage:

Female, or seed, parent.—Unnamed proprietary selection of *Osteospermum ecklonis,* not patented.

Male, or pollen, parent.—Unknown selection of *Osteospermum ecklonis,* not patented.

Propagation:

Type.—Terminal vegetative cuttings.

Time to initiate roots, summer.—About ten days at 25° C.

Time to initiate roots, winter.—About two weeks at 18° C. to 20° C.

Time to produce a rooted cutting, summer.—About three to four weeks at 25° C.

Time to produce a rooted cutting, winter.—About four to five weeks at 18° C. to 20° C.

Root description.—Fibrous.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching; dense.

Plant description:

Plant form/growth habit.—Upright and compact plant habit. Inflorescences positioned well above the foliar plane. Moderately vigorous growth habit.

Plant height.—About 37 cm.

Plant diameter.—About 37 cm to 60 cm.

Lateral branches.—Quantity per plant: Freely branching, about six to seven lateral branches per plant. Length: About 40 cm. Diameter: About 1 cm. Internode length: About 6 mm. Strength: Strong. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: 144B.

Foliage description.—Arrangement: Alternate, simple. Length: About 7 cm. Width: About 2 cm. Shape: Elliptical. Apex: Acute. Base: Acute. Margin: Shallowly crenate. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous; leathery. Venation pattern: Pinnate. Color: Developing foliage, upper surface: 144A. Developing foliage, lower surface: 146C. Fully expanded foliage, upper surface: 137A; venation, 144C. Fully expanded foliage, lower surface: 147B; venation, 144C.

Inflorescence description:

Appearance.—Daisy-type inflorescence form with spoon-shaped ray florets. Inflorescences positioned above the foliage, arising from leaf axils. Disc and ray florets developing acropetally on a capitulum. Inflorescences face mostly upright. Freely flowering habit; about 95 inflorescences develop over time per plant. Inflorescences persistent. Inflorescences not fragrant.

Flowering response.—In Germany, plants of the new *Osteospermum* flower recurrently to continuously from spring to autumn. Early flowering habit, plants begin flowering about 10 to 16 weeks after planting. Inflorescences last about five to ten days on the plant.

Inflorescence bud.—Height: About 1.3 cm. Diameter: About 1 cm. Shape: Ovate. Color: 143B.

Inflorescence size.—Diameter: About 5 cm. Depth (height): About 2 cm. Disc diameter: About 1.3 cm. Receptacle diameter: About 1.2 cm. Receptacle height: About 1 cm.

Ray florets.—Shape: Spoon-shaped. Length: About 2 cm. Width, apex: About 4 mm. Width, tube: About 2 mm. Apex: Obtuse. Base: Fused. Margin: Entire. Texture: Smooth, glabrous; velvety. Orientation: Upright. Number of ray florets per inflorescence: About 18 to 22 in a single whorl. Color: When opening, upper surface: 64B; towards the center, 63C. When opening, lower surface: 59C. Fully opened, upper surface: 71B; color becoming closer to 72B to 72D with development. Fully opened, lower surface: 77A.

Disc florets.—Shape: Tubular; apex dentate, five-pointed. Length: About 7 mm. Diameter, apex: About 1 mm. Diameter base: About 0.5 mm. Number of disc florets per inflorescence: About 50. Color: Immature: 94A. Mature: Apex: 94A. Mid-section: 84C. Base: 128D.

Phyllaries.—Quantity per inflorescence: About 15 to 16. Length: About 1.5 cm. Width: About 3 mm. Shape: Lanceolate. Apex: Acuminate. Base: Truncate. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper surface: Smooth, glabrous. Texture, lower surface: Pubescent, rough. Color, upper surface: 144A. Color, lower surface: 144B.

Peduncles.—Length: About 14 cm to 16 cm. Diameter: About 4 mm. Strength: Strong. Aspect: Mostly upright. Texture: Pubescent; rough. Color: 146B.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium: Present on disc florets only. Anther shape: Ovate. Anther length: About 1 mm. Anther color: 93B. Pollen amount: Abundant. Pollen color: 23A. Gynoecium: Present on both ray and disc florets. Pistil length: About 2 mm. Stigma shape: Lanceolate. Stigma color: 83A. Style length: About 1 mm. Style color: 84A.

Seeds.—Length: About 6 mm. Diameter: About 3 mm. Color: 200A.

Disease/pest resistance: Plants of the new *Osteospermum* have not been shown to be resistant to pathogens and pests common to *Osteospermums.*

Temperature tolerance: Plants of the new *Osteospermum* have been observed to tolerate temperatures ranging from about −5° C. to about 35° C.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct *Osteospermum* plant named 'KLEOE05520' as illustrated and described.

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