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(54) **IPOMOEA PLANT NAMED ‘BALSOLALIMLI’**

(50) Latin Name: *Ipomoea batatas*
Varietal Denomination: **Balsolalimli**

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patent is extended or adjusted under 35
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(58) **Field of Classification Search**
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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of an ornamental *Ipomoea* plant
named ‘Balsolalimli’, characterized by its lime-green col-
ored foliage, and moderately vigorous, mounded to trailing
growth habit, is disclosed.

1 Drawing Sheet

1

Latin name of genus and species of plant claimed: *Ipo-
moea batatas*.

Variety denomination: ‘Balsolalimli’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of *Ipomoea* plant botanically known as *Ipomoea batatas* and
hereinafter referred to by the cultivar name ‘Balsolalimli’.

The new cultivar originated in a controlled breeding
program in Arroyo Grande, Calif. during January 2014. The
objective of the breeding program was the development of
ornamental *Ipomoea* cultivars with a moderately vigorous,
mounded to trailing habit.

The new ornamental *Ipomoea* cultivar is the result of
cross-pollination. The female (seed) parent of the new
cultivar is ‘Sweet Caroline Bronze’, U.S. Plant Pat. No.
15,437, characterized by its bronze to purple-bronze colored
foliage and compact-mounding growth habit. The male
(pollen) parent of the new cultivar is ILLUSION Garnet
Lace ‘NCORNSP-013GNLC’, U.S. Plant Pat. No. 23,612,
characterized by its burgundy-red colored foliage and com-
pact, semi-upright, mounding growth habit. The new culti-
var was discovered and selected as a single plant within the
progeny of the above stated cross-pollination during May
2014 in a controlled environment in Arroyo Grande, Calif.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by terminal stem
cuttings since May 2014 in Arroyo Grande, Calif., and West
Chicago, Ill. has demonstrated that the new cultivar repro-
duces 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
‘Balsolalimli’ as a new and distinct cultivar of *Ipomoea*
plant:

2

1. Lime-green colored foliage; and
2. Moderately vigorous, mounded to trailing growth habit.

Plants of the new cultivar differ from plants of the female
parent primarily in having a lime-green colored foliage and
foliage with a narrower central lobe. Plants of the new
cultivar differ from plants of the male parent primarily in
having a different mature foliage color, smaller leaves, and
a different petiole color.

Of the many commercially available ornamental *Ipomoea*
cultivars, the most similar in comparison to the new cultivar
is SolarPower Lime ‘Balsolalime’, U.S. Plant Pat. No.
26,552. However, in comparison, plants of the new cultivar
differ from plants of ‘Balsolalime’ in at least the following
characteristics:

1. Plants of the new cultivar are smaller than plants of
‘Balsolalime’; and
2. Plants of the new cultivar have a darker colored petiole
and lower surface leaf midvein color plants of ‘Balso-
lalime’.

In addition, the new cultivar can be compared to *Ipomoea*
‘Balsolared’, U.S. Plant Pat. No. 26,686. However, in com-
parison, plants of the new cultivar differ from plants of
‘Balsolared’ in at least the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new cultivar have a foliage color different
from plants of ‘Balsolared’;
2. Plants of the new cultivar have smaller leaves, as
measured by length and width, than plants of ‘Balso-
lared’; and
3. Plants of the new cultivar have a smaller width of the
leaf central lobe than plants of ‘Balsolared’.

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 foliage characteristics of the new cul-
tivar. Colors in the photographs differ slightly from the color
values cited in the detailed description, which accurately
describes the colors of ‘Balsolalimli’. The plants were

grown in 15 cm pots for 8 weeks in a greenhouse in Grand Rapids, Mich. Plants were pinched two weeks before transplant.

FIG. 1 illustrates a side view of the overall growth and habit of ‘Balsolalimli’.

FIG. 2 illustrates a close-up view of the foliage of ‘Balsolalimli’.

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, 2015 edition, except where general color terms of ordinary significance are used. The color values were determined in February 2017 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 West Chicago, Ill. in 4.5-inch pots for 10 weeks in a greenhouse utilizing a soilless growth medium. Plants were pinched one week after transplant. Greenhouse temperatures were maintained at approximately 66° F. to 70° F. (19° C. to 21° C.) during the day and approximately 58° F. to 62° F. (14° C. to 17° C.) during the night. Greenhouse light levels of 2,500 footcandles to 6,000 footcandles were maintained during the day. Measurements and numerical values represent averages of typical plants.

Botanical classification: *Ipomoea batatas* cultivar Balsolalimli.

Parentage:

Female parent.—‘Sweet Caroline Bronze’, U.S. Plant Pat. No. 15,437.

Male parent.—ILLUSION Garnet Lace ‘NCORNSP-013GNLC’, U.S. Plant Pat. No. 23,612.

Propagation:

Type cutting.—Terminal stem.

Time to initiate roots.—Approximately 3 to 4 days.

Time to produce a rooted cutting.—Approximately 21 to 28 days.

Root description.—Fibrous, medium thickness.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching.

Tuber description.—Not available, tuber formation not observed.

Plant description:

Commercial crop time.—Approximately 4 to 5 weeks from a rooted cutting to finish in a 10 cm pot.

Growth habit and general appearance.—Moderately vigorous, mounded to trailing growth habit.

Size.—Height: Approximately 9.0 cm. Width: Approximately 18.0 cm.

Branching habit.—Freely branching, pinching enhances basal branching. Quantity of main lateral branches per plant: Approximately 3, axils having latent shoots.

Branch.—Shape: Round. Strength: Strong, slightly flexible. Length: Approximately 5.0 cm. Diameter: Approximately 6.0 mm. Length of central internode: Approximately 3.0 mm. Texture: Densely pubescent. Color of young and mature stems: 145B with a heavy overlay of 187B when developing.

Foliage description:

General description.—Quantity of leaves per main branch: Approximately 11. Fragrance: None detected. Form: Simple. Arrangement: Alternate, spiral.

Leaves.—Shape: Roughly cordate in overall form, palmately divided with 5 lobes. Margin: Entire. Apex of central lobe: Acuminate. Apex of lateral lobes: Acute. Base: Cordate. Venation pattern: Palmate with arcuate venation in the center lamina. Length of mature leaf: Approximately 9.0 cm. Width of mature leaf: Approximately 7.5 cm. Length of central lobe: Approximately 7.5 cm. Width of central lobe: Approximately 3.0 cm. Texture of upper and lower surfaces: Glabrous. Color of upper surface of young foliage: 145A with slightly darker venation and a spot of 187B at leaf base. Color of lower surface of young foliage: Closest to 145B with venation of 145C. Color of upper surface of mature foliage: Closest to N144D with venation of 145A and 187A at leaf base. Color of lower surface of mature foliage: Closest to but more green than 147D, venation of 145C with an overlay of 187B.

Petiole.—Length: Approximately 4.5 cm. Diameter: Approximately 3.0 mm. Texture: Glabrous. Color: Between 145B and 145C with an overlay of 187B near leaf attachment.

Flowering description: Not available, flower and seed formation not observed. The new ornamental *Ipomoea* cultivar is grown as a foliage plant and is not grown under conditions that are conducive to flower production.

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

What is claimed is:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of an ornamental *Ipomoea* plant named ‘Balsolalimli’, substantially as herein illustrated and described.

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FIG. 1



FIG. 2