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(54) **CALIBRACHOA PLANT NAMED ‘SAKCAL108’**

(50) Latin Name: *Calibrachoa* spp.
Varietal Denomination: **SAKCAL108**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**
A *Calibrachoa* plant particularly distinguished by having a white flower color and a compact plant growth habit, is disclosed.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Genus and species: *Calibrachoa* spp.
Variety denomination: ‘SAKCAL108’.

BACKGROUND OF THE NEW PLANT

The present invention comprises a new and distinct variety of *Calibrachoa* plant, botanically known as *Calibrachoa* spp. and referred to by the variety name ‘SAKCAL108’. ‘SAKCAL108’ originated from a hybridization in Kakegawa, Japan in 2007 between the female *Calibrachoa* line ‘7B-15A’, an unpatented proprietary hybrid *Calibrachoa* breeding line having a white flower color and semi-mounding growth habit and the male *Calibrachoa* line ‘6dw-1A-1B’, an unpatented proprietary hybrid *Calibrachoa* breeding line with a white flower color and compact growth habit.

In February 2007, the female parent line ‘7B-15A’ and the male parent line ‘6dw-1A-1B’ were crossed and 200 seeds were obtained. The F₁ seed were sown in a greenhouse, cultivated, and plant lines were produced with white flower color with compact and vigorous growth habits.

In May 2007 a single plant was selected within the F₁ plants that had a white flower color and a compact growth habit and designated ‘K2009-104’.

In July 2007, ‘K2009-104’ was vegetatively propagated, cultivated, and evaluated. In October 2007, ‘K2009-104’ was confirmed to be fixed and stable. In February 2008 ‘K2009-104’ was further propagated and cultivated to reconfirm the line’s stability. ‘K2009-104’ was subsequently designated ‘SAKCAL108’ and found to have its unique characteristics reproduce true to type in successive generations of asexual vegetative propagation via vegetative cuttings in Salinas, Calif.

SUMMARY

The following are the most outstanding and distinguishing characteristics of this new variety when grown under normal horticultural practices in Salinas, Calif.

1. White flower color; and
2. A compact plant growth habit.

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DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

This *Calibrachoa* plant is illustrated by the accompanying photographs which show the plant’s overall plant habit including form, foliage, and flowers. The photographs are of a four-month-old plant grown in Salinas, Calif. under greenhouse conditions in the summer of 2012. The colors shown are as true as can be reasonably obtained by conventional photographic procedures.

FIG. 1 shows the overall plant habit of the plant grown in a pot.

FIG. 2 shows a close-up of the mature inflorescence of the plant.

DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW VARIETY

The following detailed descriptions set forth the distinctive characteristics of ‘SAKCAL108’. The data which define these characteristics were collected from asexual reproductions carried out in Salinas, Calif. Data was collected on four-month-old plants grown under greenhouse conditions in Salinas, Calif. in the summer of 2012. Color references are to The R.H.S. Colour Chart of The Royal Horticultural Society of London (R.H.S.), 4th edition (2001).

Classification:

- Family*.—Solanaceae.
- Botanical*.—*Calibrachoa* spp.
- Common*.—*Calibrachoa*.
- Designation*.—‘SAKCAL108’.

Parentage:

- Female parent*.—Proprietary hybrid *Calibrachoa* line ‘7B-15A’ (unpatented).
- Male parent*.—Proprietary hybrid *Calibrachoa* line ‘6dw-1A-1B’ (unpatented).

Growth:

- Time to produce a rooted cutting*.—About 6 weeks.
- Environmental conditions for plant growth*.—The terminal 1.0 to 1.5 inches of an actively growing stem was excised. The vegetative cuttings were propagated in five to six weeks. The base of the cuttings were

dipped for 1 to 2 seconds in a 1:9 solution of Dip 'N Grow (1 solution: 9 water) root inducing solution immediately prior to sticking into the cell trays. Cuttings were stuck into plastic cell trays having 98 cells, and containing a moistened peat moss-based growing medium. The cuttings were misted with water from overhead for 10 seconds every 30 minutes until sufficient roots were formed. Rooted cuttings were transplanted and grown in 20-cm diameter plastic pots in a glass greenhouse located in Salinas, Calif. Pots contained a peat moss-based growing medium. Soluble fertilizer containing 20% nitrogen, 10% phosphorus and 20% potassium was applied once a day or every other day by overhead irrigation. Pots were top-dressed with a dry, slow release fertilizer containing 20% nitrogen, 10% phosphorus and 18% potassium. The typical average air temperature was 24° C.

Plant description:

Habit and form.—Compact and branching.

Life cycle.—Tender perennial.

Height (from soil line to top of foliage).—10.0 cm.

Spread.—32.0 cm.

Flowering requirements.—Will flower so long as day length is greater than 12 hours and temperature is above 13° C.

Temperature tolerances.—Excellent resistance to rain, heat, and drought. Plants will not tolerate temperatures below 10° C.

Stems:

General description.—Circular in cross-section; dull in appearance.

Stem length.—12.0 cm.

Diameter.—0.15 cm.

Internode length (average).—0.6 cm.

Color.—RHS 145A (Yellow-Green).

Pubescence.—Heavy; pubescence is RHS N155A (White).

Anthocyanin color.—Absent.

Leaves:

Arrangement.—Alternate.

Shape.—Elliptic.

Apex.—Obtuse.

Base.—Attenuate.

Margin.—Entire.

Surface appearance (both surfaces).—Dull.

Surface pubescence (both surfaces).—Slightly pubescent; pubescence is RHS N155A (White).

Length.—3.0 cm.

Width.—0.7 cm.

Color.—Upper surface: RHS 137A (Green). Lower surface: RHS 137B (Green).

Venation.—Pinnate.

Variation.—Absent.

Petiole.—Absent; decurrent leaf attachment.

Fragrance.—Absent.

Inflorescence:

Inflorescence type.—Solitary.

Flowering habit.—Indeterminate.

Time to bloom from propagation.—10 weeks.

Lastingness of individual blooms on the plant.—5 days.

Fragrance.—Absent.

Flower bud:

Surface texture.—Pubescent.

Length.—2.4 cm.

Diameter.—0.5 cm.

Shape.—Ovate.

Color.—RHS N155A (White) with RHS 154C (Yellow-Green) veins.

Peduncle:

Length.—0.6 cm.

Diameter.—0.1 cm.

Color.—RHS 145B (Yellow-Green).

Surface appearance and texture.—Dull with moderate pubescence; pubescence color is RHS N155A (White).

Corolla:

Shape.—Composed of five, fused petals to create a funnel-shaped flower with five fissures and a shallow, yet prominent, indentation of the petal tip at the midvein.

Flower type.—Single.

Flower diameter.—3.3 cm.

Flower depth.—0.5 cm.

Petals.—Shape: Bilabiate. Apex: Truncate. Base: Fused. Margin: Entire. Surface texture (both surfaces): Glabrous. Length: 1.5 cm. Width: 1.5 cm. Color: Upper surface: RHS N155A (White). Lower surface: RHS N155A (White).

Corolla tube.—Length: 1.6 cm. Diameter: 0.7 cm. Color: Inner surface: RHS 12B (Yellow) with RHS 154C (Yellow-Green) veins. Outer surface: RHS 12C (Yellow) with RHS 154C (Yellow-Green) veins.

Calyx:

Arrangement.—Composed of 5 sepals, free.

Sepals.—Shape: Elliptical. Apex: Obtuse. Margin: Entire. Color (both surfaces): RHS 143A (Green). Length: 0.9 cm. Diameter: 0.2 cm.

Reproductive organs:

Stamen number.—5.

Stamen color.—RHS 154D (Yellow-Green).

Stamen form.—Free.

Pollen color.—RHS 10A (Yellow).

Pollen amount.—Abundant.

Ovary.—Superior.

Placental arrangement.—Central.

Pistil number.—1 (per inflorescence).

Pistil length.—0.8 cm.

Pistil color.—RHS 145B (Yellow-Green).

Stigma color.—RHS 11A (Yellow).

Style length.—0.9 cm.

Style color.—RHS 154D (Yellow-Green).

Seed production.—Absent.

Disease and insect resistance: Plants are susceptible to *Botrytis*, powdery mildew, various stem and root rots, and certain viruses, such as Tobacco Mosaic Virus and Impatiens Necrotic Spotted Virus. Plants can be infested with aphids, leafminers, whitefly, and various *Lepidoptera*.

COMPARISON WITH PARENTAL LINES AND KNOWN VARIETY

‘SAKCAL108’ is a new and unique variety of *Calibrachoa* owing to its white flower color and compact plant growth habit. ‘SAKCAL108’ is distinguished from its parents mainly by flower color as shown in Table 1 below:

TABLE 1

Comparison with Parental Lines			
Characteristic	'SAKCAL108'	Female Parent '7B-15A'	Male Parent '6dw-1A-1B'
Flower color	White	White	White
Plant growth habit	Compact	Semi-mounding	Compact
Ease of blooming under short day conditions	Easier to bloom under short day conditions than male parent	Information is not available	Does not bloom as well under short day conditions as 'SAKCAL108'

'SAKCAL108' is a new and unique variety of *Calibrachoa* owing to its white flower color and a compact plant growth habit. 'SAKCAL108' is most similar to the commercial *Calibrachoa* variety 'USCALI6' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 14,955), commercially known as SUPERBELLS® 'White'; however there are differences as described in Table 2 below.

TABLE 2

Comparison with Similar Variety		
Characteristic	'SAKCAL108'	'USCALI6'
Flower petal color, upper surface	RHS N155A (White)	RHS 155D (White)
Flower petal color, lower surface	RHS N155A (White)	RHS 155D (White)
Flower size (diameter)	3.3 cm.	2.8 cm.
Plant growth habit	Compact	Semi-upright

I claim:

1. A new and distinct variety of *Calibrachoa* plant as shown and described herein.

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FIG. 1



FIG. 2