The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of plant known as impatiens and commercially known as New Guinea impatiens. The new cultivar is known by the cultivar name Martinek, and was developed by the inventor Ludwig Kientzler in Genslingen, Federal Republic of Germany by crossing the cultivar designated KR 541 (seed parent) with the cultivar DR 803 (pollen parent). Both parents are proprietary cultivars used in the breeding program.

Asexual reproduction by terminal (stem tip) cuttings taken by me or under my supervision at Genslingen, Federal Republic of Germany, has shown that the unique features of this new cultivar are stabilized and are reproduced true to type in successive propagations.

The following characteristics distinguish the new impatiens from both its parent varieties and other cultivars of this general type known and used in the floriculture industry:

1. Compact growth habit with excellent branching characteristics. Plants in 16.5 cm pots were 19 cm tall and 40 cm wide, eight weeks after first flowering.
2. Large, dark red flowers. Open flowers measure up to 6.5 cm in diameter.
3. Early flowering and very floriferous. Plants in 16.5 cm pots were the flower 6 weeks after planting.
4. Medium green foliage.
5. Well suited both to 4" pot and 6" pot, and 8" hanging basket cultures.

Martinek is similar in many respects to Lanai, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 3,897, and the cultivar Anaea, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 7,640. The flower color of Martinek is a deep, dark red with bluish tones. Anaea and Lanai have bright, orange-red flowers. The leaf color of Martinek is similar to Lanai. Martinek has a more compact growth habit, deep, darker red flowers, larger flowers and blooms earlier than either Lanai or Anaea. Reference is made to Chart A at the end of the specification which compares certain characteristics of Martinek, Anaea and Lanai.

The accompanying colored photograph is a top perspective view of the new cultivar, showing color as true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in a colored reproduction of this type.

The following is a detailed description of my new impatiens cultivar based on plants grown under commercial practice in Encinitas, Calif. Plants were started as rooted cuttings and were transplanted in mid-November into 16.5 cm (6.5 inch) pots, one pot per plant. By mid-January, plants were growing vigorously and were in flower. The values, measurements and observations noted below were taken from plants in full bloom in mid-February.

Color references are made to the Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart (RHS), except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

Parentage: Cross between KR 541 (seed) and DR 803 (pollen)

Asexual reproduction:

A. Cutting type.—Tip, with stems 2-3 cm long and developing to 4-5 cm after 21 days in propagation.

B. Time to initiate roots.—8-10 days at 23° C.; nicely developed root mass in 18-21 days.

C. Rooting habit.—Numerous, fibrous, adventitious roots from the stem.

Plant description:

A. Form.—Symmetrical, bush shaped, flowering herb, with self-branched characteristics giving the plant a full appearance. Pinching is not recommended since it does not enhance branching and only delays flowering by removing flower buds.

B. Habit of growth.—Vigorous, self-branched habit, producing whorls of leaves and flowers. Growth is indeterminate and flowering is continuous.


Flowering description:
Plant 9,149

A. Flowering habits.—Very floriferous. Flowering is continuous. Flowers develop progressively around the whorl of leaves, taking 5–7 days from buds which show color, to bloom. Flowers are single and large, lasting for 2–3 weeks.

B. Natural flowering season.—Flowering is indeterminate and occurs throughout the year. Quantity of flowers increases with increasing light intensity and duration. However, floriferousness may wane during hot summer days in temperate climates.

C. Flower buds.—Ellipsoidal and covered with 3 sepals plus rudimentary sepals fused into the under surface of the superior petal. A spur originates from the base of the inferior sepal. Spur is red and 5 cm long.

D. Flowers borne.—Singly, on red pedicels about 4.5 cm long.

E. Quantity of flowers.—One flower per leaf. Flowers occur progressively around the whorl of 20 leaves so that tight buds to mature flowers are visible at the same time.

F. Petals.—Petals open nearly perpendicular to the pedicle so that the plane of the flower surface is nearly flat. 1. Number of petals: Five (5) petals, all overlapping. 2. Shape: All petals are heart-shaped. Superior petal has a broad base. Other petals have a pointed base. 3. Color: Deep, dark red. a. Upper surface: Deeper red than 46A, with less orange and more blue tones. b. Under surface: Near 46B. 4. Flower size: Up to 6.5 cm in diameter.

G. Reproductive organs.—Flowers are monoecious. 1. Stamens: Five (5), broad and fused to form a tube around the ovary; red in color. 2. Anther: Hooded and reddish colored. 3. Pollen: Cream colored. 4. Stigma: Five pointed star, colorless. 5. Styles: Very short. 6. Ovary: 5-celled, 4–5 mm long until fertilized. Grows to 1 cm or longer after fertilization; green.

Resistance to disease: Good resistance to common stem and root diseases, Rhizoctonia and Pythium. Botrytis may be a problem in humid or mist propagation environments, but no greater than with other New Guinea impatiens cultivars.

| CHART A |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Flower Color     | Martinique       | Lanzl            | Anaea            |
| Plant Height     | Darker RHS 46 A  | RHS 44 A         | RHS A-46B        |
| (above the pot)  | 19 cm            | 33 cm            | 33 cm            |
| Plant Width      | 40 cm            | 38 wks           | 46 cm            |
| Weeks to flower  | 6 wks            | 7 wks            | 8 wks            |
| Flower Diameter  | 6.5 cm           | 5.5 cm           | 5.5 cm           |

I claim:
1. A new and distinct cultivar of New Guinea impatiens named Martinique, as illustrated and described.

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