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(54) **GYMNOCLADUS TREE NAMED**
'MCKBRANCHED'

(50) Latin Name: *Gymnocladus dioicus*
Varietal Denomination: **McKBranded**

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(52) **U.S. Cl.**
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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 cultivar of *Gymnocladus* plant named, 'McK-
Branched', that is characterized by its increased branching
on trees of a young age, which is not commonly observed in
plants of *Gymnocladus* and its male flowers resulting in a
seedless plant.

2 Drawing Sheets

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Botanical classification: *Gymnocladus dioicus*.
Variety denomination: 'McKBranded'.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of *Gymnocladus dioicus*, and will be referred to hereafter by
its cultivar name, 'McKBranded'. 'McKBranded' is a
deciduous tree grown for use as a landscape plant.

'McKBranded' was discovered by the Inventor in June
of 2008 as a chance seedling growing in a production field
in Waterloo, Wis. The field was planted with seedlings from
seed derived from unnamed and unpatented plants *Gymno-*
cladus dioicus.

Asexual propagation of the new cultivar was first accom-
plished by budding by the Inventor in Waterloo, Wis. in July
of 2008. Asexual propagation by budding has determined
that the characteristics of the new cultivar are stable and are
reproduced true to type in successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and
represent the characteristics of the new cultivar. These
attributes in combination distinguish 'McKBranded' as a
new and unique cultivar of *Gymnocladus*.

1. 'McKBranded' exhibits increased branching on trees
of a young age, which is not commonly observed in
plants of *Gymnocladus*.
2. 'McKBranded' exhibits male flowers resulting in a
seedless plant.

Typical plants of *Gymnocladus dioicus* differ from 'McK-
Branched' in being less well branched at a young age and
may have male or female flowers; which would produce
seed pods. 'McKBranded' can be compared to the *Gym-*
nocladus cultivars 'Espresso' and 'Stately Manor' (both not
patented). Both 'Espresso' and 'Stately Manor' are similar to
'McKBranded' in having blooms of only male flowers and
is therefore lacking seed pods. 'Espresso' differs from

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'McKBranded' in having a less well-branched plant habit.
'Stately Manor' differs from 'McKBranded' in having a
narrower plant habit.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying colored photographs illustrates the
overall appearance and distinct characteristics of the new
Gymnocladus.

The photograph in FIG. 1 was taken of a two-year-old
plant of 'McKBranded' as grown outdoors in the ground in
Waterloo, Wis. and provides a side view of a tree of
'McKBranded' illustrating its well-branched plant habit.

The photograph in FIG. 2 was taken of a four year-old
plant of 'McKBranded' as grown in a landscape in New
Hope, Minn. and provides a photo of an inflorescence.

The colors in the photograph are as close as possible with
the photographic and printing technology utilized and the
color values cited in the Detailed Botanical Description
accurately describe the colors of the new *Gymnocladus*.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The following is a detailed description of a three-year old
plant of the new cultivar as observed growing outdoors in
the ground in New Hope, Minn. The phenotype of the new
cultivar may vary with variations in environmental, climatic,
and cultural conditions, as it has not been tested under all
possible environmental conditions. The color determination
is in accordance with The 2015 R.H.S. Colour Chart of The
Royal Horticultural Society, London, England, except where
general color terms of ordinary dictionary significance are
used.

General description:

Bloom period.—Approximately 10 days beginning in
early June in Southern Wisconsin.

Plant type.—Deciduous tree.

Plant habit.—Upright, well-branched even as a young
plant.

Height and spread.—Reaches 3 to 3.7 m in height and 1.2 to 1.8 m in spread as a three year-old plant in the ground.

Cold hardiness.—At least to U.S.D.A. Zone 4.

Diseases and pests.—Similar susceptibility and resistance to pests and diseases as compared to other cultivars of *Gymnocladus dioicus* has been observed.

Root description.—Deeply rooted.

Growth rate.—Moderate, similar to other cultivars of *Gymnocladus dioicus*.

Propagation.—Budding and grafting.

Time to produce a young plant from budding.—Budding occurs in one year, new growth is cut back in spring in year two to finish a tree 1.8 m in height, a 3.2 cm tree is obtained in 3 years.

Stem description:

Shape.—Rounded.

Stem size.—Lateral stems; an average of 1.4 cm in width and 46 to 61 cm in length, main trunk; 2.5 m in length, an average of 4 cm in width measured 1 m from base.

Stem surface.—Lateral stems; glabrous and with lenticels about 1 mm in length, 15 per sq. cm 197B to 197C in color, main trunk; rough barked, slightly exfoliating.

Branching.—Well-branched with an average of 10 lateral stems uniformly distributed along the main stem.

Stem strength.—Strong.

Branch arrangement.—Alternate to whorled.

Branch aspect.—Main stem is upright with lateral stems held at an average angle between 55° to 80° from the main stem (90° vertical).

Internode length.—An average of 4.5 cm.

Branch color.—Lateral branches; 198B on the sun exposed upper surface and 200B to 200C on the shaded lower surface, main trunk; 197B to 197C suffused with 199C to 199D.

Foliage description:

Leaf arrangement.—Leaves and secondary leaflets; alternate, leaflets; opposite to slightly alternate.

Leaf division.—Bipinnate.

Leaf quantity.—An average of 5 leaves per branch, 7 leaflets per leaf, and 10 secondary leaflets per leaflet.

Leaf size.—Leaf; up to 38 cm in length and 25 mm in width, leaflet; up to 14 cm in length and 6.5 cm in width, secondary leaflet; up to 4.2 cm in length and 2.2 cm in width.

Leaf shape.—Leaf; ovate, leaflet; oblong, secondary leaflet; ovate.

Secondary leaflet base.—Rounded.

Secondary leaflet apex.—Acute.

Secondary leaflet venation.—Pinnate, puberulent, color: upper and lower surfaces 144B to 144C.

Secondary leaflet margins.—Entire and puberulent.

Secondary leaflet surface.—Newly emerged leaflet upper and lower surfaces; glabrous, smooth, and shiny, mature leaflet upper and lower surfaces; smooth and dull.

Secondary leaflet color.—Newly emerged leaflet upper surface; 143A lightly suffused with 176B and lower surface; 143A, mature leaflet upper surface; 139A and lower surface; 137A, fall; primarily 151D on both surfaces.

Rachis.—Primary; rounded in shape; up to 27 cm in length and 2.5 mm in width, color; upper surface 183A and lower surface 143C, upper surface; puberulent with hairs 158B in color, secondary; rounded in shape, up to 11 cm in length and 1 mm in width, color; upper and lower surfaces 143C, upper surface lightly suffused with 183A and puberulent with hairs 158B in color, all surfaces; smooth and satiny.

Petiole.—An average of 1.5 mm in length and 1 mm in width, 144A in color, flexible and moderately strong, smooth, puberulent surface.

Inflorescence description:

Inflorescence type.—Raceme of corymbs at terminals of new growth, dioecious plant; male flowers only.

Inflorescence size.—Average of 10 cm in height and 4.5 cm in width.

Flower buds.—Narrow obovate in shape, an average of 1.6 cm in length and 4 mm in diameter, calyx portion 146C and heavily suffused with 178B and petal portion a blend of 146C and 145B in color, burst in early June.

Flower fragrance.—None.

Lastingness of flowers.—About 6 days.

Flower aspect.—Primarily outward, upward at apex of rachis.

Flower quantity.—An average of 55 flower per inflorescence, about 20 inflorescences per tree.

Flower type.—Tubular with spreading petals and sepal tips, single.

Flower size.—Average of 1.2 cm in diameter (at apex) and 1.8 cm in depth.

Peduncles.—Rachis; an average of 8 cm in length and 3.5 mm in diameter, very strong, held nearly upward to the lateral branch, 144A in color, glaucous surface, corymb peduncles; an average of 6 mm in length and 1.5 mm in width, slightly glaucous surface with very sparse hairs, held an average angle of 45°, 144B in color.

Pedicels.—Average of 1 cm in length and 1 mm in diameter, held straight and to a 20° angle to peduncle, moderately strong, 145B in color, surface dull and slightly hairy.

Calyx.—Tubular in shape, fused tubular portion an average of 1.1 cm in length and 3.5 mm in width with spreading sepal tips 3 mm in height and 1.2 cm in diameter.

Sepals.—5, fused with free tips, tube; an average of 1.1 cm in length and 3.5 mm in width, color outer surface 146C and heavily suffused with 178B, color inner surface 152C, both surfaces pubescent, outer surface ribbed, tips; an average of 6 mm in length and 0.7 mm in width, linear in shape, acute apex, fused base, entire margin, rotate in arrangement, both surfaces pubescent, color: young and mature upper 146C and lower surface; 146C and slightly suffused with 178B.

Petals.—5, fused to top of tube with spreading lobes, lobes; narrowly oblanceolate in shape, margin entire, apex obtuse-acute, an average of 1.1 cm in length, 3 mm in width, both surfaces pubescent, color when opening and mature upper and lower surface is a blend of 146D and 145B.

Reproductive organs:

Gynoecium.—None, only male flowers are present.

Androcoecium.—5 stamens, anthers are basifixed, oblong in shape, 1 mm in length and 162D in color, filaments are an average of 3 cm in length and NN155A in color, pollen is very low in quantity and 165D in color.

Fruit and seed.—No fruit or seed is produced as they are male flowers.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Gymnocladus* plant named 'McKBranched' as herein illustrated and described.

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FIG. 1



FIG. 2