



US00PP25146P3

(12) **United States Plant Patent**
Schoone

(10) **Patent No.:** **US PP25,146 P3**

(45) **Date of Patent:** **Dec. 2, 2014**

(54) **PHALAEOPSIS ORCHID PLANT NAMED**
‘OJAI’

(50) Latin Name: ***Phalaenopsis hybrid***
Varietal Denomination: **Ojai**

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(72) Inventor: **René Schoone, Assendelft (NL)**

(73) Assignee: **Floricultura, Heemskerk (NL)**

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 107 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **13/573,518**

(22) Filed: **Sep. 20, 2012**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**
US 2013/0125278 P1 May 16, 2013

Related U.S. Application Data

(60) Provisional application No. 61/540,980, filed on Sep. 29, 2011.

(30) **Foreign Application Priority Data**

Sep. 30, 2011 (NL) PBR OPS839

(51) **Int. Cl.**
A01H 5/00 (2006.01)
A01H 5/02 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC **A01H 5/02** (2013.01)
USPC **Plt./311**

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
USPC Plt./311
See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct *Phalaenopsis* plant named ‘Ojai’ particularly characterized by flowers which are red/purple with in the center a light purple mark; the labellum is purple with some yellow and a white column; plants which may be propagated economically and uniformly using tissue culture; plants which produce more than one inflorescence; long and sturdy inflorescences; and relatively short, dark-green foliage.

3 Drawing Sheets

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Latin name of the genus and species of the plant claimed:
Phalaenopsis hybrid.
Variety denomination: ‘Ojai’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of *Phalaenopsis* plant, botanically known as *Phalaenopsis* of the Orchidaceae family, and hereinafter referred to by the cultivar name ‘Ojai’.

Phalaenopsis comprises a genus of about 55 species of herbaceous perennials many of which, or the hybrids thereof, are suitable for cultivation in the home or greenhouse. *Phalaenopsis* is predominantly epiphytic or rock-dwelling, and is native to tropical Asia, the Malay Archipelago, and Oceania. The species typically has 2-ranked, fleshy, oblong or elliptic leaves affixed to a short central stem (monopodial growth), which vary in size from 5 to 8 inches to over 2 feet. The leaves may be entirely green or mottled with silver grey.

Phalaenopsis orchids, often referred to as ‘Moth Orchids’ in the horticultural trade, are frequently used to furnish cut flowers for the florist trade or sold as flowering potted-plants for home or interiorscape.

Phalaenopsis produces upright or pendent lateral racemes, often with many showy flowers which open in succession beginning with the lowermost. The flowers possess three sepals and three petals; the lateral ones being alike. The lowermost petal, called the labellum, is three-lobed and is often more brightly-colored than the other flower segments. Flower colors include various shades of pink, white, yellow and red-brown.

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Phalaenopsis orchids are typically propagated from seeds. Asexual propagation of *Phalaenopsis* is often done from off-shoots which frequently arise from the lower bracts of the inflorescence. The resulting plants are detached from the mother plant and may be planted in a suitable substrate.

The new *Phalaenopsis* ‘Ojai’ is a product of a controlled breeding program conducted by the inventor, René Schoone, in Strengweg, Heemskerk, The Netherlands. The objective of the breeding program was to develop a new *Phalaenopsis* cultivar particularly characterized by its attractive and unique colored flowers, economical propagation via tissue culture, rapid growth, and a plant dimension suitable for packaging and shipping to the market.

The new *Phalaenopsis* ‘Ojai’ originated from a cross made by the inventor in 1999 in Strengweg, Heemskerk, The Netherlands. The female or seed parent is the *Phalaenopsis* cultivar designated ‘Sun Prince’, unpatented. The male or pollen parent is the *Phalaenopsis* cultivar designated ‘Happy Beauty’, unpatented. The new *Phalaenopsis* ‘Ojai’ was discovered and selected by the inventor as a single flowering plant within the progeny of the stated cross in a controlled environment in 2006 in Strengweg, Heemskerk, The Netherlands.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Phalaenopsis* cultivar by tissue culture was first performed in July, 2007 in Cieweg 13, Heemskerk, The Netherlands, and has demonstrated that the combination of characteristics as herein disclosed for the new cultivar are firmly fixed and retained through successive generations of asexual reproduction. The new cultivar asexually reproduces true-to-type.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and are determined to be unique characteristics of 'Ojai', which in combination distinguish this *Phalaenopsis* as a new and distinct cultivar:

1. flowers which are red/purple with in the center a light purple mark; the labellum is purple with some yellow and a white column;
2. plant produces more than one inflorescence;
3. plants may be propagated economically and uniformly using tissue culture;
4. inflorescences are long and sturdy; and
5. relatively short, dark-green foliage.

In comparison with the parental cultivars of 'Ojai', the female parent 'Sun Prince' has white with purple/violet striped flowers and a red/purple labellum with a little yellow and white in it, and the column is purple/violet. The male parent 'Happy Beauty' has solid red/purple flowers with a solid red/purple labellum, column is also red/purple; whereas the flowers of 'Ojai' are red/purple with darker red/purple stripes and a light purple mark in the center. Labellum is red/purple with some yellow and white and column is white with purple/violet haze.

Presently, the most commercially similar cultivars to 'Ojai' are the parental cultivars, to which a comparison is provided above.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying photographs illustrate the overall appearance of the new *Phalaenopsis* 'Ojai' showing the colors as true as is reasonably possible with colored reproductions of this type. Colors in the photographs may differ slightly from the color values cited in the detailed botanical description, which accurately describe the color of 'Ojai'.

FIG. 1 shows a side view perspective of a typical flowering plant of 'Ojai' in a 12 cm pot, at 16 months of age.

FIG. 2 shows a close-up view of the typical buds and flowers of 'Ojai'.

FIG. 3 shows a close-up view of the typical leaves of 'Ojai'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The new *Phalaenopsis* cultivar 'Ojai' has not been observed under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype of the new cultivar may vary with variations in environment such as temperature, light intensity, and day length without any change in the genotype of the plant.

The aforementioned photographs, together with the following observations, measurements and values describe plants of 'Ojai' as grown in a greenhouse in Strengweg, Heemskerk, The Netherlands, under conditions which closely approximate those generally used in commercial practice. Initially, the ideal temperature to grow plants of 'Ojai' is 27° C. during the day and at night. Then, during the flowering phase of 'Ojai', the ideal growing temperature is 20-22° C. during the day and 18° C. at night. Light levels for growing 'Ojai' are a minimum of 5,000 lux and a maximum of 10,000 lux. A balanced fertilizer with level of 200 ppm N, 87 ppm P, 168 ppm K is applied. Duration of growth of 'Ojai' from potting size is between 10 and 14 months.

Color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart (R.H.S.), 2007 edition, except where general colors of ordinary significance are used. Color values were taken under daylight conditions at approximately noon

in Zaandammerweg, Assendelft, The Netherlands. The age of the 'Ojai' plants described is 12 months after potting.

Classification:

Botanical.—*Phalaenopsis* hybrid.

Parentage:

Female or seed parent.—*Phalaenopsis* cultivar designated 'Sun Prince', unpatented.

Male or pollen parent.—*Phalaenopsis* cultivar designated 'Happy Beauty', unpatented.

Propagation:

Type.—Tissue culture.

Rooting habit and description.—Fleshy; approximately 4 mm-7 mm wide and greyed/green (RHS 191B) in color; freely branching. It takes 12 weeks for plants growing in tissue culture to initiate roots.

Plant:

Size at maturity.—Height (from bottom of pot to highest flower): about 42 cm. Spread: about 35 to 45 cm.

Growth habit.—Small; green (RHS N137A) leaves and a relatively normal raceme.

Vigor.—Moderate.

Crop time.—Following asexual propagation, at about 26 weeks 2 leaves appear; at about 30 weeks 3-4 leaves appear; after a cold treatment of about 4-8 weeks at a temperature of about 19° C. about 2 racemes with flowers appear.

Foliage:

Quantity per plant.—About 6 to 8 leaves are produced before flowering.

Arrangement and attachment.—Half up/horizontal and on two sides.

Overall shape of leaf.—Oval, the tip is blunt and asymmetric.

Texture (both surfaces).—Smooth and leathery.

Pubescence.—None.

Leaf base.—Acute.

Margin.—Entire.

Mature leaf length.—About 8 to 12 cm.

Mature leaf width.—About 6 to 9 cm.

Mature leaf thickness.—About 1.5 mm.

Mature leaf color.—Upper side: RHS N137A. Lower side: RHS 137B with purple RHS N79A.

Venation.—Pattern: parallel. Color of midvein: upper side: RHS 139A. Lower side: RHS N79A.

Raceme:

Quantity per plant.—About 1 to 2.

Number of flowers per raceme.—About 8 to 20.

Length.—About 30 to 40 cm.

Diameter.—About 3 to 5 mm.

Strength.—Strong.

Aspect.—Upright.

Texture.—Glabrous and smooth.

Color.—Dark green RHS N187A.

Internode.—Length: about 22 to 29 mm.

Inflorescence description:

Appearance.—Upright to slightly pendant, racemose inflorescence with bilaterally symmetrical flowers that open in succession beginning with the lowermost flower.

Buds.—Height (from base to tip): about 14 to 20 mm. Diameter (at midpoint): about 12 to 16 mm. Shape: oval/egg-shaped. Color: Red/purple (RHS 60B).

Flowering time.—For an untreated plant (flowering plant that has not undergone cold-treatment where the plant grows at a temperature of 18° C. to 19° C. for

about 4 to 8 weeks after a period of about 30 weeks at a temperature of 25° C.), 2 racemes appear with about 16 to 20 flower buds and flowers per inflorescence. First flowers can be expected approximately 4 to 6 months after planting a plant with a leaf diameter of 3 to 5 cm. Flowers persistent.

Flowering longevity.—On the plant: about 4 to 6 months; lastingness of cut flowers: has not been observed.

Fragrance.—No fragrance.

Flower.—Rate of opening: Flowers fully opened about 2 to 3 days after petal and sepal separation. Orientation at opening: slanted upward and outward. Shape: Typical shape of *Phalaenopsis* orchid; see FIG. 2. Size (of single bloom): Height: about 43 to 51 mm. Diameter: about 50 to 60 mm. Depth of tube: about 10 mm.

Petals.—Quantity and arrangement: three petals and three sepals that are trimerous, overlapping and arranged in 2 whorls. Petals are more pronounced than sepals. Arrangement: Inner whorl comprises 3 petals: 2 lateral petals and labellum. 2 lateral petals: Overall shape: broadly ovate and weakly cupped. Apex: oval. Margin: entire and weakly undulate. Base: broadly ovate. Length: about 25 mm. Width: about 30 mm. Texture: Upper surface: smooth and satiny. Under surface: smooth and satiny. Color (when fully opened): upper side: red/purple (RHS 70A) with in the center a light purple mark (RHS N80C and RHS 72B). The veins are red/purple (RHS N79C) lower side: red/purple (RHS 71B and RHS 72B). Labellum: Overall shape: 3-lobed with 2 prominent callosities at central junction of the lateral lobes and base of the midlobe. Lateral lobes of labellum fold upward about the column; the midlobe extends forward and is terminated by 2 stubs appendages at the apex. Lateral lobes of the labellum are ovate in shape while the midlobe is triangular with a bump and a rib on it. Margin: entire and weakly undulate. Length: about 18 mm. Width (not flattened): about 16 mm. Texture: Upper and lower surface: smooth and satiny. Color (when fully opened): Main color is red/purple (RHS 59A). At the base of the midlobe there is some yellow (RHS 3A). Lateral lobes are red/purple (RHS 59A). Some yellow (RHS 3A) and white (RHS N155A) at the base with red/purple spots and stripes (RHS 59A). Round the edges a thin yellow edge (RHS 3A). Lower

side: The base of midlobe is yellow (RHS 7A), in the center purple/violet (RHS N80A). Edges are purple (RHS 77A). Lateral lobes are red/purple (RHS 59B) and some white at the base (RHS N155A). Cirrhi: small. Color: red/purple (RHS 59A). Pestle (callosities): Length: about 3 mm. Width: about 4 mm. Height: about 4 mm. Color: Base is white (RHS N155A). Sides and top are yellow (RHS 3A) with red/purple stripes and spots (RHS 59A).

Sepals.—Arrangement: Outer whorl comprises 3 sepals. Overall shape: Elliptical and weakly cupped. Margin: entire and weakly undulate. Length: about 25 to 30 mm. Width: about 17 to 21 mm. Apex: oval. Texture: Upper surface: smooth and satiny. Color (when fully opened): Dorsal sepals is red/purple (RHS N79C/RHS 71A), Main color of lateral sepals is RHS 71A with white (RHS N155A) at the base and yellow (RHS 3C) with red/purple stripes and spots. The lower side is red/purple (RHS 70) with on the lateral sepals some yellow/green (RHS 145C) and purple (RHS N80A) veins.

Pedicel.—Length: about 22 to 29 mm. Diameter: about 3 mm. Texture: glabrous and smooth. Color: At the base purple (RHS N79B), further RHS N78B.

Reproductive organs:

Arrangement.—The stamens, style and stigmas are fused into a single, short structure called the column, possessing one terminal anther with pollen grains united into a pollinia, which are covered by an anther cap. The stigma is located under the column behind the pollinia. The ovary is inferior with three carpels present. The plant has not produced seed.

Column.—Length: about 9 mm. Diameter: about 5 mm. Color: white (RHS NN155C) with a purple/violet haze (RHS N80B).

Pollinia.—Quantity: Two. Size: about 1 mm. Color: yellow/orange RHS 23A.

Ovary.—Length: about 5 mm. Diameter: about 4 mm. Color: white (RHS NN155C).

Disease/pest resistance/susceptibility: No specific resistance or susceptibility observed.

Temperature tolerance: Tolerant to a low temperature of about 15° C. and to a high temperature about 30° C.

What is claimed is:

1. A new and distinct *Phalaenopsis* plant named 'Ojai', as illustrated and described herein.

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FIG. 1



FIG. 2

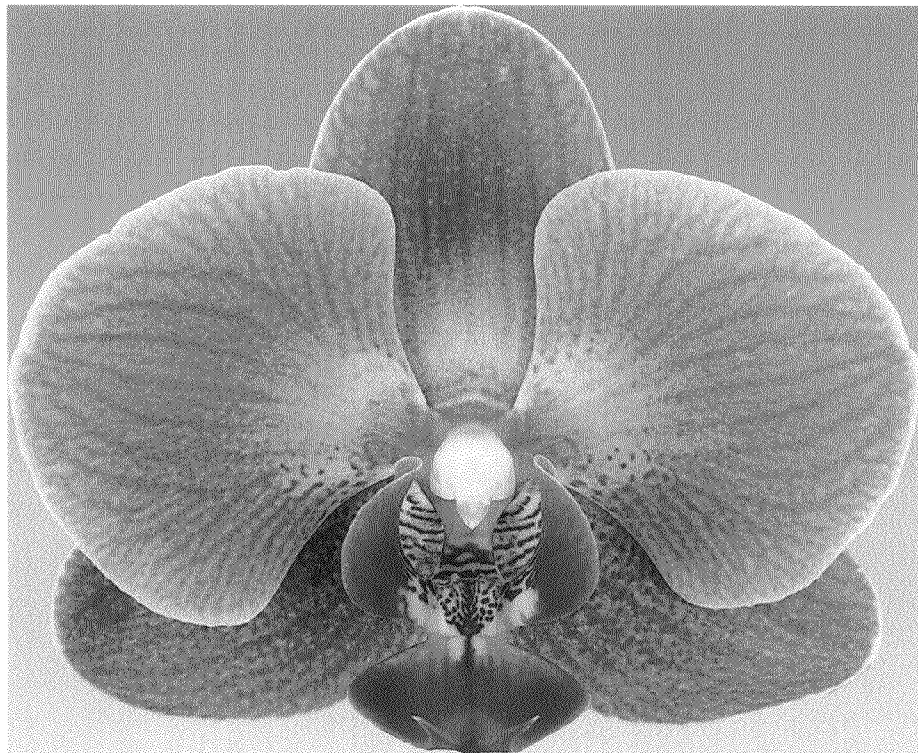


FIG. 3

