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(54) ***PETUNIA* PLANT NAMED 'BALCANNURG'**

(50) Latin Name: ***Petunia* x *hybrida***
Varietal Denomination: **Balcannurg**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Petunia* plant named 'Balcannurg', characterized by its deep purplish-red colored flowers, medium green-colored foliage, low growth vigor, and compact-mounded growth habit, is disclosed.

1 Drawing Sheet

Latin name of genus and species of plant claimed: *Petunia* x *hybrida*.

Variety denomination: 'Balcannurg'.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of *Petunia* plant botanically known as *Petunia* x *hybrida* and hereinafter referred to by the cultivar name 'Balcannurg'.

The new cultivar originated in a controlled breeding program in Arroyo Grande, Calif. during August 2017. The objective of the breeding program was the development of *Petunia* cultivars that are early to flower and have a compact, upright-mounded growth habit.

The new *Petunia* cultivar is the result of cross-pollination. The female (seed) parent of the new cultivar is POTUNIA 'Purple Halo', not patented, characterized by its dark purple-colored flowers, medium green-colored foliage, low growth vigor, and compact-mounded growth habit. The male (pollen) parent of the new cultivar is the proprietary *Petunia* x *hybrida* breeding selection coded GS-1202-2, not patented, characterized by its dark red-colored flowers, medium green-colored foliage, and moderately vigorous, spreading growth habit. The new cultivar was selected as a single flowering plant within the progeny of the above stated cross-pollination during April 2018 in a controlled environment in Arroyo Grande, Calif.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by terminal stem cuttings since April 2018 in Arroyo Grande, Calif. and West Chicago, Ill. has demonstrated that the new cultivar reproduces 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 'Balcannurg' as a new and distinct cultivar of *Petunia* plant:

1. Deep purplish-red colored flowers;
2. Medium green-colored foliage;
3. Low growth vigor; and
4. Compact-mounded growth habit.

Plants of the new cultivar differ from plants of the female parent primarily in having deep purplish-red colored flowers. Plants of the new cultivar differ from plants of the male parent primarily in having deep purplish-red colored flowers, lower growth vigor, and a compact-mounded growth habit.

Of the many commercially available *Petunia* cultivars, the most similar in comparison to the new cultivar is Starlet Burgundy 'Balspunburg', U.S. Plant Pat. No. 21,492. However, in comparison, plants of the new cultivar differ from plants of 'Balspunburg' in at least the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new cultivar have deeper purplish-red colored flowers than plants of 'Balspunburg';
2. Plants of the new cultivar are wider than plants of 'Balspunburg'; and
3. Plants of the new cultivar have larger leaves than plants of 'Balspunburg'.

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 flower and foliage characteristics of the new cultivar. Colors in the photographs may differ slightly from the color values cited in the detailed description, which accurately describes the colors of 'Balcannurg'. The approximately 3-month-old plants were grown in 6-inch pots for approximately 5 weeks in a greenhouse in West Chicago, Ill.

FIG. **1** illustrates a side view of the overall growth and flowering habit of 'Balcannurg'.

FIG. **2** illustrates a close-up view of an individual flower of 'Balcannurg'.

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 December 2020 under natural light conditions in Naperville, Ill.

The following descriptions and measurements describe approximately 3-month-old 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 6-inch pots for approximately 5 weeks utilizing a soilless growth medium. Greenhouse temperatures were maintained at approximately 70° F. to 75° F. (21° C. to 24° C.) during the day and approximately 68° F. to 74° F. (20° C. to 23° C.) during the night. Supplemental lighting was used. Measurements and numerical values represent averages of typical plants.

Botanical classification: *Petunia* x *hybrida* 'Balcannurg'.

Parentage:

Female parent.—POTUNIA 'Purple Halo'.

Male parent.—Proprietary *Petunia* x *hybrida* breeding selection coded GS-1202-2, not patented.

Propagation:

Type cutting.—Terminal stem.

Time to initiate roots.—Approximately 6 to 9 days.

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

Root description.—Fibrous.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching.

Plant description:

Commercial crop time.—Approximately 5 to 7 weeks from a rooted cutting to finish in a 10 cm pot.

Growth habit and general appearance.—Low growth vigor, and compact-mounded growth habit.

Size.—Height from soil level to top of plant plane: Approximately 14.5 cm. Width: Approximately 41.0 cm.

Branching habit.—Freely branching. Quantity of main branches per plant: Approximately 4.

Branch.—Strength: Moderate. Length: Approximately 17.5 cm. Diameter: Approximately 4.0 mm. Length of central internode: Approximately 1.5 cm. Texture: Densely glandular pubescent with a mixture of long and short hairs. Gland color: Colorless, transparent. Color of young stems:144A. Color of mature stems: 146C.

Foliage description:

General description.—Quantity of leaves per main branch: Approximately 6. Fragrance: Slight. Form: Simple. Arrangement on flowering stem: Alternate.

Leaves.—Aspect: Acute angle to stem. Shape: Ovate. Margin: Entire. Apex: Broadly acute. Base: Broadly attenuate. Venation pattern: Pinnate. Length of mature leaf: Approximately 6.5 cm. Width of mature leaf: Approximately 3.2 cm. Texture of upper and lower surfaces: Moderately glandular pubescent. Gland color: Colorless, transparent. Color of upper surface of young and mature foliage: 137A with venation of 146C to indistinguishable. Color of lower surface of young and mature foliage: Closest to 146B with venation of 146D to indistinguishable.

Petiole.—Length: Approximately 1.0 cm. Width: Approximately 3.0 mm. Texture: Densely glandular pubescent with a mixture of long and short hairs. Gland color: Colorless, transparent. Color: 146D.

Flowering description:

Flowering habit.—'Balcannurg' is freely flowering under outdoor growing conditions with substantially continuous blooming from spring through autumn and year-round in greenhouse environment.

Lastingness of individual flower on the plant.—Approximately 10 to 12 days.

Flower description:

General description.—Type: Simple, salverform. Quantity per plant: Approximately 23. Fragrance: None detected.

Bud.—Rate of opening: Generally takes 2 to 3 days for bud to progress from first color to fully open flower. Quantity per plant: Approximately 9.

Bud just before opening.—Shape: Oblong. Length: Approximately 4.2 cm. Diameter at apex: Approximately 8.0 mm. Diameter at base: Approximately 2.0 mm. Texture: Densely glandular pubescent. Gland color: Colorless, transparent. Color of petal portion: N77C with venation of 79A and midveins of N186A. Color of tube: N77C with venation of N77A.

Corolla.—Diameter: Approximately 6.5 cm.

Petals.—Quantity: 5, fused to form a tube. Shape: Obovate. Appearance: Iridescent. Margin: Entire, slightly wavy. Apex: Cuspidate to rounded. Length from tube: Approximately 2.7 cm. Length of free portion: Approximately 1.5 cm to 1.7 cm. Width: Approximately 3.0 cm. Texture of upper surface: Glabrous. Texture of lower surface: Sparsely glandular pubescent. Gland color: Colorless, transparent. Color of upper surface when first open: Closest to but darker than 71A with venation of N186A. Color of lower surface when first and fully open: N77B with heavy venation of N79A and midveins of N77A. Color of upper surface when fully open: Closest to 71A with venation of N186A.

Corolla tube.—Length: Approximately 3.5 cm. Diameter at distal end: Approximately 1.0 cm. Diameter at proximal end: Approximately 3.0 mm. Texture of inner surface: Glabrous. Texture of outer surface: Densely glandular pubescent. Gland color: Colorless, transparent. Color of inner surface: N186A with N79A. Color of outer surface: N77C with N79A and venation of N77A.

Sepals.—Quantity per flower: 5, fused at base. Shape: Linear. Margin: Entire. Apex: Acute. Length: Approximately 2.8 cm. Width: Approximately 5.0 mm. Texture of upper and lower surfaces: Densely glandular pubescent. Gland color: Colorless, transparent. Color of upper surface: 137A. Color of lower surface: 138A with 144A at base.

Peduncle.—Strength: Strong, flexible. Aspect: Acute angle to stem. Length: Approximately 2.0 cm. Diameter: Approximately 2.0 mm. Texture: Densely glan-

dular pubescent with a mixture of long and short hairs. Gland color: Colorless, transparent. Color: 146C.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium: Stamen quantity: 5, basifixed. Stamen length: Approximately 2.3 cm. Filament length of fixed portion: Approximately 9.0 mm. Filament color: 155C with an overlay of 79A near anther. Anther shape: Bilobed. Anther length: Approximately 1.0 mm. Anther color: N187C. Pollen amount: Abundant. Pollen color: 94D. Gynoecium: Pistil quantity: 1 per flower. Pistil length: Approximately 2.5 cm. Stigma shape: Funnel. Stigma length: Approximately 1.0 mm. Stigma color: 146A. Style length: Approximately 2.1 cm. Style color: 145D with 79A near stigma. Ovary length: Approximately 3.0 mm. Ovary color: 144A.

Seed and fruit production: Neither seed nor fruit production has been observed.

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

What is claimed is:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Petunia* plant named 'Balcannurg', substantially as herein illustrated and described.

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FIG. 1

FIG. 2