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

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(54) **HYPERICUM PLANT NAMED 'SEIHERO'**

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

(50) Latin Name: *Hypericum androsaemum*
Varietal Denomination: **Seihero**

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./442**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** **Plt./442**
See application file for complete search history.

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this
patent is extended or adjusted under 35
U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Hypericum* plant named
'Seihero', characterized by its yellow-colored flowers, large,
red-colored fruit, dark green-colored foliage, and vigorous,
upright growth habit.

(21) Appl. No.: **11/973,973**

(22) Filed: **Oct. 11, 2007**

1 Drawing Sheet

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Latin name of genus and species of plant claimed: *Hypericum androsaemum*.
Variety denomination: 'Seihero'.

comparison, plants of the new cultivar differ from plants of
'Excellent Flair' in the following characteristics:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of *Hypericum* plant botanically known as *Hypericum androsaemum*,
used commercially as stems with fruit and hereinafter referred to
by the cultivar name 'Seihero'.

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The new cultivar originated in a controlled breeding program
in Elmshorn, Germany during July 2002. The objective of the
breeding program was the development of *Hypericum* cultivars
with unique and large attractive fruit coloration.

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The new *Hypericum* cultivar is the result of open-pollination
using a bulk of proprietary female and male *Hypericum androsaemum*
parent plants, not patented, characterized by large brown-colored
berries or small berries ranging in color from red to pink. The
new cultivar was discovered and selected as a single flowering
plant within the progeny of the above stated open-pollination
during June 2003 in a controlled environment at Elmshorn,
Germany.

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Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by terminal stem
cuttings since June 2003 at Elmshorn, Germany and Arroyo
Grande, Calif. 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.

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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 differ slightly from the color
values cited in the detailed description, which accurately
describes the colors of 'Seihero'. The plants were grown
outdoors in the ground for approximately 15 months at Elburn,
Ill.

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FIG. 1 illustrates a side view of flowers, fruits, and the
overall growth habit of 'Seihero'.

FIG. 2 illustrates a close-up view of the flower of
'Seihero'.

FIG. 3 illustrates a close-up view of the fruit of 'Seihero'.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The following characteristics of the new cultivar have been
repeatedly observed and can be used to distinguish 'Seihero'
as a new and distinct cultivar of *Hypericum* plant:

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1. Yellow-colored flowers;
2. Large, red-colored fruit;
3. Dark green-colored foliage; and
4. Vigorous, upright growth habit.

Plants of the new cultivar differ from plants of the female
and male parents primarily in the size of red-colored fruit.

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Of the many commercially available *Hypericum* cultivars
known to the inventor, the most similar in comparison to the
new cultivar is 'Excellent Flair', not patented. However, in

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.

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The chart used in the identification of colors described
herein is The R.H.S. Colour Chart of The Royal Horticultural
Society, London, England, 2001 edition, except where general
color terms of ordinary significance are used. The color values
were determined on Aug. 2, 2007 between 1:00 p.m. and 3:00
p.m. under natural light conditions.

The following descriptions and measurements describe
plants grown outdoors in the ground at Elburn, Ill. under

commercial production practices when outdoor temperatures typically range in fall and winter months from an average low of 12° F. (-11° C.) to 32° F. (0° C.) to an average high of 29° F. (-1° C.) to 50° F. (10° C.) and in spring and summer months from an average low of 40° F. (4° C.) to 65° F. (18° C.) to an average high of 66° F. (18° C.) to 86° F. (30° C.). Plants were about 15 months old.

Botanical classification: *Hypericum androsaemum* cultivar Seihero.

Parentage:

Female parent.—A proprietary mix of *Hypericum androsaemum* plants, not patented.

Male parent.—A proprietary mix of *Hypericum androsaemum* plants, not patented.

Propagation:

Type cutting.—Terminal stem.

Time to initiate roots.—Approximately 14 to 21 days.

Time to produce a rooted cutting.—Approximately 2 months.

Root description.—Fine, white.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching, dense. Height of entire root structure: Approximately 50 cm. Diameter of entire root structure: Approximately 100 cm.

Plant description:

Form.—Erect, perennial, woody shrub; broad, inverted triangle.

Growth habit and general appearance.—Vigorous, dense bushy.

Size.—Height from soil level to top of plant plane: Approximately 54.5 cm. Width: Approximately 55.0 cm.

Branching habit.—Freely basal branching. Quantity of lateral branches per plant: Approximately 11. Production of harvestable stems increases with age of plant and remains constant after three years of growth.

Branch.—Shape: Rounded. Strength: Strong. Length: Approximately 48.5 cm. Diameter: Approximately 6.0 mm. Length of central internode: Approximately 5.1 cm. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color of young stem: 144B with an overlay of 185A. Color of mature stem: 177B.

Foliage description:

General description.—Quantity of leaves per main branch: Approximately 19. Form: Simple, sessile. Arrangement: Opposite.

Leaves.—Shape: Oval to lanceolate. Margin: Entire. Apex: Acute. Base: Cordate. Venation pattern: Pinnate. Length of mature leaf: Approximately 8.1 cm. Width of mature leaf: Approximately 3.6 cm. Texture of upper surface: Smooth, glabrous. Texture of lower surface: Smooth, glabrous. Color of upper surface of young foliage: Darker than 144A with venation of 144C. Color of lower surface of young foliage: 138B with venation of 144C. Color of upper surface of mature foliage: 139A with venation of 144C. Color of lower surface of mature foliage: 147C with venation of 144C.

Flowering description:

Flowering habit.—‘Seihero’ flowers throughout the summer under outdoor growing conditions and produces harvestable cut stems with fruit beginning in August; flowering period typically lasts about 60 days.

Lastingness of individual flower on the plant.—Approximately 14 days.

Lastingness of individual flower as a cut flower.—Approximately 12 days.

Inflorescence description:

General description.—Type: Compound umbel, not persistent. Quantity of flowers per inflorescence: Approximately 5 to 6. Fragrance: None. Length or height: Approximately 4.2 cm. Width: Approximately 4.7 cm.

Peduncle.—Strength: Strong. Aspect: Approximately 45° angle from stem. Length: Approximately 1.2 cm. Diameter: Approximately 2.0 mm. Texture: smooth, glabrous. Color: 144A with an overlay of 183C.

Flower description:

General description.—Type: Single. Aspect: Upright.

Bud.—Shape: Ovoid. Length: Approximately 1.2 cm. Diameter: Approximately 9.0 mm. Color: 14A.

Corolla.—Shape: Round. Diameter: Approximately 3.4 cm. Depth: Approximately 2.1 cm.

Petals.—Quantity: 5, nonimbricate. Shape: Oval. Appearance: Flat, turning downward with age. Aspect: Slightly concave. Margin: Entire. Apex: Rounded. Base: Attenuate. Length: Approximately 1.6 cm. Width: Approximately 1.0 cm. Texture of upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color of upper surface when first open: 13A. Color of lower surface when first open: 12A. Color of upper surface when fully open: 13A. Color of lower surface when fully open: 13B.

Calyx.—Shape: Divergent, downward turning. Length: Approximately 1.1 cm. Width: Approximately 2.0 cm.

Sepals.—Quantity per flower: 5, nonimbricate. Shape: Oval. Appearance: Flat. Margin: Entire. Apex: Apiculate. Base: Broadly cuneate. Length: Approximately 1.2 cm. Width: Approximately 6.6 mm. Texture of upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color of upper surface of immature sepals: 144A. Color of lower surface of immature sepals: 144B. Color of upper surface of mature sepals: 144A with an overlay of 59A at apex. Color of lower surface of mature sepals: 144B with an overlay of 59A at apex.

Pedicels.—Strength: Strong. Aspect: Approximately 45° angle from peduncle. Length: Approximately 6.0 mm. Diameter: 1.0 mm. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: 144A with a faint overlay of 183C.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium: Stamen quantity: Approximately 90. Stamen length: Ranges from 1.0 cm to 1.4 cm. Anther shape: Oval. Anther length: Less than 1.0 mm. Anther color: 17C. Filament color: 3B. Pollen amount: Moderate. Pollen color: 13B. Gynoecium: Pistil quantity: 3 per flower. Pistil length: Approximately 1.2 cm. Stigma shape: Globular. Stigma color: 17A. Style length: Approximately 6.0 mm. Style color: 150D. Ovary diameter: Approximately 6.0 mm. Ovary color: Between 150C and 150D.

Fruit.—Type: Capsule. Taste: Bitter. Shape: Ellipsoidal. Quantity per inflorescence: Approximately 3 to 5. Quantity fruit clusters per plant: Approximately 42. Days to ripening: Approximately 10 days to color and 30 days to seed. Longevity on plant: Approximately 30 days. Length: Approximately 1.1 cm. Diameter: Approximately 9.7 mm. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color of immature fruit: 145A. Color of mature fruit: Between 42A and 42B.

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Seed.—Quantity per fruit: Typically more than 100.
Length: Approximately 1.0 mm. Diameter: Approximately 0.5 mm. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: 200D.

Disease and pest resistance: Plants of the new *Hypericum* have been observed to be resistant to rust.

Weather tolerance: Plants of the new *Hypericum* have been observed to tolerate temperatures ranging from -10° C. to

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35° C., and to demonstrate tolerance to rain and wind effects.

What is claimed is:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Hypericum* plant named 'Seihero', substantially as herein shown and described.

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FIG. 1

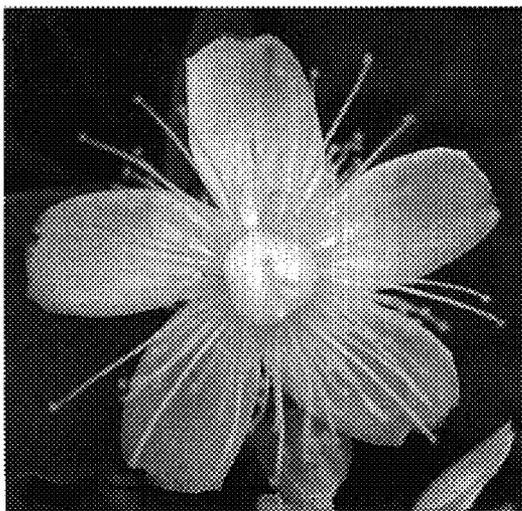


FIG. 2

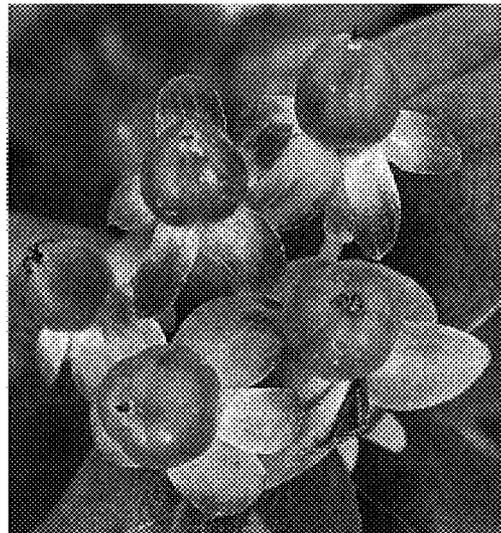


FIG. 3