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**Brown**

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(54) **MANDEVILLA PLANT NAMED ‘RITA’**

(50) Latin Name: *Mandevilla hybrida*  
Varietal Denomination: **Rita**

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(AU)

(73) Assignees: **Floraquest Pty. Ltd.**, Pennant Hills,  
NSW (AU); **Protected Plant**  
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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 137 days.

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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 and distinct cultivar of *Mandevilla* plant named ‘Rita’,  
characterized by its compact, upright and mounding plant  
habit; strong stems; early and freely flowering habit; and large  
red purple-colored flowers.

**1 Drawing Sheet**

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Botanical designation: *Mandevilla hybrida*.  
Cultivar denomination: ‘RITA’.

CROSS-REFERENCED TO CLOSELY-RELATED  
APPLICATIONS

Title: *Mandevilla* Plant Named ‘Gina’  
Applicant: Graham Noel Brown  
Filed: Jan. 31, 2012, U.S. Plant patent application Ser. No.  
13/385,067

Title: *Mandevilla* Plant Named ‘Grace’  
Applicant: Graham Noel Brown  
Filed: Jan. 31, 2012, U.S. Plant patent application Ser. No.  
13/385,073

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar  
of *Mandevilla* plant, botanically known as *Mandevilla*  
*hybrida* and hereinafter referred to by the name ‘Rita’.

The new *Mandevilla* plant is a product of a planned breed-  
ing program conducted by the Inventor in Pennant Hills, New  
South Wales, Australia. The objective of the breeding pro-  
gram is to create new shrub-type *Mandevilla* plants with  
strong stems and numerous attractive flowers.

The new *Mandevilla* plant originated from a cross-pollina-  
tion made by the Inventor in Pennant Hills, New South Wales,  
Australia in December, 2003 of a proprietary selection of  
*Mandevilla hybrida* identified as code number X02.5, not  
patented, as the female, or seed parent with *Mandevilla*  
*hybrida* ‘Sunmandecrim’, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No.  
15,539, as the male, or pollen, parent. The new *Mandevilla*  
plant was discovered and selected by the Inventor as a single  
flowering plant from within the progeny of the stated cross-  
pollination in a controlled greenhouse environment in Mac-  
quarie Fields, New South Wales, Australia in November,  
2005.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Mandevilla* plant by cut-  
tings in Macquarie Fields, New South Wales, Australia, since

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December, 2005, has shown that the unique features of this  
new *Mandevilla* plant are stable and reproduced true to type  
in successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Plants of the new *Mandevilla* have not been observed under  
all possible environmental conditions and cultural practices.  
The phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in envi-  
ronmental conditions such as temperature and light intensity  
without, however, any variance in genotype.

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and are  
determined to be the unique characteristics of ‘Rita’. These  
characteristics in combination distinguish ‘Rita’ as a new and  
distinct *Mandevilla* plant:

1. Compact, upright and mounding plant habit.
2. Strong stems.
3. Early and freely flowering habit.
4. Large red purple-colored flowers.

Plants of the new *Mandevilla* can be compared to plants of  
the female parent selection. Plants of the new *Mandevilla*  
differ from plants of the female parent selection in the fol-  
lowing characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Mandevilla* have smaller flowers than  
plants of the female parent selection.
2. Plants of the new *Mandevilla* and the female parent  
selection differ in flower color as plants of the female  
parent selection have red-colored flowers.

Plants of the new *Mandevilla* can be compared to plants of  
the male parent, ‘Sunmandecrim’. Plants of the new *Mandevilla*  
differ from plants of ‘Sunmandecrim’ in the following  
characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Mandevilla* are more compact than  
plants of ‘Sunmandecrim’.
2. Plants of the new *Mandevilla* and ‘Sunmandecrim’ differ  
in flower color as plants of ‘Sunmandecrim’ have crim-  
son red-colored flowers.

Plants of the new *Mandevilla* can be compared to plants of  
*Mandevilla hybrida* ‘Gina’, disclosed in a U.S. Plant patent  
application Ser. No. 13/385,067. Plants of the new *Mandevilla*

*illa* differ primarily from plants of 'Gina' in flower color as plants of 'Gina' have red-colored flowers.

Plants of the new *Mandevilla* can be compared to plants of *Mandevilla hybrida* 'Grace', disclosed in a U.S. Plant patent application Ser. No. 13/385,073. Plants of the new *Mandevilla* differ primarily from plants of 'Grace' in flower color as plants of 'Grace' have greyed purple-colored flowers.

Plants of the new *Mandevilla* can also be compared to plants of *Mandevilla hybrida* 'Sunparaprero', disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 19,399. Plants of the new *Mandevilla* differ primarily from plants of 'Sunparaprero' in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Mandevilla* are shorter than plants of 'Sunparaprero'.
2. Plants of the new *Mandevilla* flower earlier than plants of 'Sunparaprero'.
3. Plants of the new *Mandevilla* and 'Sunparaprero' differ in flower color as plants of 'Sunparaprero' have dark pink-colored flowers.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying colored photographs illustrate the overall appearance of the new *Mandevilla* plant showing the colors as true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in 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 actual colors of the new *Mandevilla* plant.

The photograph at the bottom of the sheet comprises a side perspective view of a typical flowering plant of 'Rita' grown in a container.

The photograph at the top of the sheet is a close-up view of a typical flowering plant of 'Rita'.

#### DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The aforementioned photographs and following observations, measurements and values describe plants grown during the spring and summer with three plants in 20-cm containers in a polyethylene-covered greenhouse in Bonsall, Calif. under commercial production cultural practices. During the production of the plants, day temperatures ranged from 18° C. to 32° C., night temperatures ranged from 7° C. to 18° C. and light levels ranged from 7,000 to 8,000 foot-candles. Plants were pinched one time and were eight months old when the photographs and description were taken. In the following description, color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 2007 Edition, except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

Botanical classification: *Mandevilla hybrida* 'Rita'.

Parentage:

*Female, or seed, parent.*—Proprietary selection of *Mandevilla hybrida* identified as code number X02.5, not patented.

*Male, or pollen, parent.*—*Mandevilla hybrida* 'Sunmandecrim', disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 15,539.

Propagation:

*Type.*—By cuttings.

*Time to produce a rooted young plant.*—About one month.

*Root description.*—Fleshy, thick; white in color.

*Rooting habit.*—Moderate branching; medium density.

Plant description:

*Plant and growth habit.*—Compact, upright and mounding plant habit, slightly vining; vigorous growth habit.

*Plant height.*—About 33 cm.

*Plant diameter.*—About 27 cm.

*Lateral branch description.*—Branching habit: Freely branching habit with about six primary lateral branches per plant; primary laterals with about six secondary lateral branches each; pinching enhances lateral branch development. Length: About 32 cm. Diameter: About 3 mm. Internode length: About 3 cm. Strength: Strong. Texture: Smooth, glabrous; woody with development. Color, young: Close to 144A. Color, woody: Close to N199A.

Foliage description:

*Arrangement.*—Opposite, simple.

*Length.*—About 5.6 cm.

*Width.*—About 3.6 cm.

*Shape.*—Elliptical.

*Apex.*—Acuminate.

*Base.*—Obtuse.

*Margin.*—Entire.

*Texture, upper and lower surfaces.*—Smooth, glabrous; leathery.

*Venation pattern.*—Pinnate, arcuate.

*Color.*—Developing leaves, upper surface: Close to N137A. Developing leaves, lower surface: Close to 146A. Fully expanded leaves, upper surface: Close to 139A; venation, close to 147B. Fully expanded leaves, lower surface: Close to 147B; venation, close to 147C.

*Petioles.*—Length: About 1.5 cm. Diameter: About 2 mm. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Sparsely pubescent. Color, upper surface: Close to 144A. Color, lower surface: Close to 144A.

Flower description:

*Flower type and habit.*—Salverform flowers arranged in terminal and axillary clusters; flowers face mostly outwardly; freely flowering habit, about five to seven flowers develop per cluster with about 100 flowers developing per plant.

*Natural flowering season.*—Plants flower continuously year-round in the greenhouse and outdoors in Southern California.

*Flower longevity on the plant.*—About five days; flowers not persistent.

*Fragrance.*—None detected.

*Flowers.*—Appearance: Funnelform with five-parted fused corolla; flowers roughly star-shaped. Diameter: About 6.3 cm. Depth (length): About 6.5 cm. Throat diameter: About 1.6 cm. Tube length: About 5.5 cm. Tube diameter, at the base: About 4 mm.

*Flower buds.*—Height: About 6.8 cm. Diameter: About 1.7 cm. Shape: Elongated oblong. Color: Close to 63A.

*Corolla.*—Arrangement and appearance: Single whorl of five petals, fused into flared trumpet; petals imbricate. Petal lobe length: About 2.7 cm. Petal lobe width: About 2.4 cm. Petal lobe shape: Roughly ovate, asymmetrical. Petal apex: Acuminate; reflexing. Petal margin: Entire. Petal texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous; velvety. Throat texture: Smooth, glabrous. Tube texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: Petal lobe, when opening, upper surface: Close to 53B. Petal lobe, when opening, lower surface: Close to 54A. Petal lobe, fully opened, upper surface: Close to 60A; towards the apex, close to 59A; towards the base, close to 60C; color does not fade

with development; venation, close to 59A. Petal lobe, fully opened, lower surface: Close to 59B with occasional color breaks, close to 189D; venation, close to 59B. Throat: Close to 172C to 172D; venation, close to 172D. Tube: Towards the apex, close to 187D; mid-section, close to 145C; towards the base, close to 181A; venation, close to 145C and 187D.

*Sepals*.—Arrangement and appearance: Five per flower fused in a single whorl. Length: About 1 cm. Width: About 2.5 mm. Shape: Lanceolate. Apex: Acute to acuminate. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color, inner surface: Close to 145D. Color, outer surface: Close to 145A; apices tinted with close to 185B.

*Peduncles*.—Length: About 5.9 cm. Diameter: About 2 mm. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Strength: Strong, flexible. Aspect: About 35° to 45° from stem axis. Color: Close to 146C.

*Pedicels*.—Length: About 2.2 cm. Diameter: About 2 mm. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Strength: Strong, flexible. Aspect: About 30° from peduncle axis. Color: Close to 146C.

*Reproductive organs*.—Stamens: Quantity per flower: Typically five. Filament length: About 5 mm. Filament color: Close to 155B. Anther shape: Lanceolate. Anther size: About 9 mm by 1.5 mm. Anther color: Close to 161C. Pollen amount: Scarce. Pollen color: Close to 157D. Pistils: Quantity per flower: Typically one. Pistil length: About 2.1 cm. Stigma shape: Rounded; five-lobed. Stigma color: Close to 146B. Style length: About 1.9 cm. Style color: Close to 145D. Ovary color: Close to 144A.

*Seeds and fruits*.—Seed and fruit production have not been observed on plants of the new *Mandevilla*.

Disease & pest resistance: Plants of the new *Mandevilla* have not been noted to be resistant to pathogens and pests common to *Mandevilla* plants.

Temperature tolerance: Plants of the new *Mandevilla* have been observed to tolerate temperatures from about 2° C. to about 35° C.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct *Mandevilla* plant named 'Rita' as illustrated and described.

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