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Heuger

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- (54) **HELLEBORUS PLANT NAMED ‘HM 1212’**
- (50) Latin Name: *Helleborus ballardiae X Helleborus x hybridus*
Varietal Denomination: **HM 1212**
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- (72) Inventor: **Josef Heuger**, Glandorf (DE)
- (*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.
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- (51) **Int. Cl.**
A01H 5/12 (2018.01)
A01H 6/72 (2018.01)
- (52) **U.S. Cl.**
USPC **Plt./439**
- (58) **Field of Classification Search**
USPC **Plt./439**
See application file for complete search history.

- (56) **References Cited**

PUBLICATIONS

Zakreti 2023 Hellebore (*Helleborus x iburgensis*) ‘HGC ice N’ roses’ retrieved on Apr. 16, 2024 at <https://zielonozakreceni.pl/forum/ciemierniki/11877-ciemiernik-iburgski-helleborus-x-iburgensis-hgc-ice-n-roses-maddy-marble-hm-1212#286241>.*
- * cited by examiner
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(57) **ABSTRACT**
A new and distinct cultivar of *Helleborus* plant named ‘HM 1212’, characterized by its upright to somewhat outwardly spreading and mounded plant habit; moderately vigorous growth habit; dark green-colored leaflets with lighter green-colored venation; freely flowering habit; yellow green to greyed yellow and purplish red-colored flowers; and good garden performance.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Botanical designation: *Helleborus ballardiae X Helleborus x hybridus*.
Cultivar denomination: ‘HM 1212’.

STATEMENT REGARDING PRIOR DISCLOSURES BY INVENTOR/APPLICANT

An European Community Plant Breeder’s Rights application for the instant plant was filed by the Inventor/Applicant, Mr. Josef Heuger of Glandorf, Germany, on Dec. 1, 2022, application number 2022/2781. Foreign priority is not claimed to this application.

The Inventor/Applicant asserts that no publications nor advertisements relating to sales, offers for sale or public distribution occurred more than one year prior to the effective filing date of this application. Any information about the claimed plant would have been obtained from a direct or indirect disclosure from the Inventor or Applicant. Inventor/Applicant claims a prior art exception under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)(1) for disclosure and/or sales prior to the filing date but less than one year prior to the effective filing date.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of *Helleborus* plant, botanically known as *Helleborus ballardiae X Helleborus x hybridus* and hereinafter referred to by the name ‘HM 1212’.

The new *Helleborus* plant is a product of a planned breeding program conducted by the Inventor in Glandorf, Germany. The objective of the breeding program was to create new uniform *Helleborus* plants with unique and attractive plant habit, leaf and flower coloration and tolerance to biotic and abiotic stresses.

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The new *Helleborus* plant originated from a cross-pollination conducted by the Inventor in Glandorf, Germany in December 2014 of a proprietary selection of *Helleborus ballardiae* identified as code number P482, not patented, as the female, or seed, parent and a proprietary selection of *Helleborus x hybridus* identified as code number O1588, not patented, as the male, or pollen, parent. The new *Helleborus* plant was discovered and selected by the Inventor as a single flowering plant from within the progeny of the stated cross-pollination grown in a controlled greenhouse environment in Glandorf, Germany in January 2017.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Helleborus* plant by in vitro axillary meristem culture in a controlled environment in Glandorf, Germany since April 2017 has shown that the unique features of this new *Helleborus* plant are stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Plants of the new *Helleborus* have not been observed under all possible combinations of environmental conditions and cultural practices. The phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in environmental 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 ‘HM 1212’. These characteristics in combination distinguish ‘HM 1212’ as a new and distinct *Helleborus* plant:

1. Upright to somewhat outwardly spreading and mounded plant habit.
2. Moderately vigorous growth habit.
3. Dark green-colored leaflets with lighter green-colored venation.

4. Freely flowering habit.
5. Yellow green to greyed yellow and purplish red-colored flowers.
6. Good garden performance.

Plants of the new *Helleborus* differ from plants of the female parent selection in the following characteristics:

1. Leaf venation of leaflets of plants of the new *Helleborus* is more distinct than leaf venation of leaflets of plants of the female parent selection.
2. Flowers of plants of the new *Helleborus* are yellow green to greyed yellow and purplish red in color whereas flowers of plants of the female parent selection are creamy white to pink in color.

Plants of the new *Helleborus* differ from plants of the male parent selection in the following characteristics:

1. Leaf venation of leaflets of plants of the new *Helleborus* is more distinct than leaf venation of leaflets of plants of the male parent selection.
2. Flowers of plants of the new *Helleborus* are yellow green to greyed yellow and purplish red in color whereas flowers of plants of the male parent selection are pink in color.

Plants of the new *Helleborus* can also be compared to plants of *Helleborus x ericsmithii* X *Helleborus x hybridus* 'COSEH 4200', disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 28,297. In side-by-side comparisons, plants of the new *Helleborus* differ primarily from plants of 'COSEH 4200' in the following characteristics:

1. Leaf venation of leaflets of plants of the new *Helleborus* is more distinct than leaf venation of leaflets of plants of 'COSEH 4200'.
2. Flowers of plants of the new *Helleborus* are yellow green to greyed yellow and purplish red in color whereas flowers of plants of 'COSEH 4200' are pink in color.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying colored photographs illustrate the overall appearance of the new *Helleborus* 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 colors of the new *Helleborus* plant.

The photograph at the top of the sheet (FIG. 1) is a side perspective view of a typical flowering plant of 'HM 1212' grown in a container.

The photograph at the bottom of the sheet (FIG. 2) is a close-up view of a typical flowering plant of 'HM 1212'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The aforementioned photographs and following observations, measurements and values describe plants grown during early spring in 15-cm containers in a glass-covered greenhouse in Glandorf, Germany and under cultural practices typical of commercial *Helleborus* production. During the production of the plants, day temperatures ranged from 12 C to 25 C and night temperatures ranged from 5 C to 12 C. Plants were 48 weeks old when the photographs were taken and 14 months old when the description was taken. In the following description, color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 2015 Edition, except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

Botanical classification: *Helleborus ballardiae* X *Helleborus x hybridus* 'HM 1212'.

Parentage:

Female, or seed, parent.—Proprietary selection of *Helleborus ballardiae* identified as code number P482, not patented.

Male, or pollen, parent.—Proprietary selection of *Helleborus x hybridus* identified as code number O1588, not patented.

Propagation:

Type.—In vitro axillary meristem culture.

Time to initiate roots, winter.—About 55 days at temperatures about 12 C.

Time to produce a rooted young plant, winter.—About 170 days at temperatures ranging from about 4 C to 15 C.

Root description.—Thick to thin, fleshy; typically white to brownish in color, actual color of the roots is dependent on substrate composition, water quality, fertilizer type and formulation, substrate temperature and physiological age of roots.

Rooting habit.—Low branching; sparse.

Plant description:

Plant and growth habit.—Herbaceous perennial; upright to somewhat outwardly spreading and mounding plant habit with flowers held within to slightly above the foliar plane; plant shape, roughly flattened globular; moderately vigorous growth habit and moderate growth rate.

Plant height, soil level to top of foliar plane.—About 18.5 cm.

Plant height, soil level to top of flowers.—About 41.2 cm.

Plant diameter (area of spread).—About 69.3 cm.

Leaf description:

Arrangement.—Leaves arranged in a basal rosette; leaves palmately compound with typically five leaflets per leaf.

Leaf length.—About 19.1 cm.

Leaf width.—About 22 cm.

Leaflet length.—About 12.3 cm.

Leaflet width.—About 6.2 cm.

Leaf shape.—Palmate; roughly reniform in outline.

Leaflet shape.—Elliptic, broadly elliptic, ovate to broadly ovate.

Leaflet apex.—Acute.

Leaflet base.—Attenuate.

Leaflet margin.—Serrate; slightly coarsely undulate.

Leaflet texture and luster, upper surface.—Smooth, glabrous; coriaceous and tough; moderately glossy.

Leaflet texture and luster, lower surface.—Smooth, glabrous; coriaceous and tough; slightly glossy.

Leaflet venation pattern.—Pinnate and reticulate.

Leaflet color.—Developing leaflets, upper surface:

Close to NN137A and NN137B; venation, close to 146D; proximally, midvein, close to 187A and 187B.

Developing leaflets, lower surface: Close to N199B.

Fully developed leaflets, upper surface: Darker than a blend of NN137A and 147A; venation and area surrounding the venation, distinct, close to 146A and 146B; proximally and marginally, midvein, close to 178A.

Fully developed leaflets, lower surface: Close to a blend of 146A and 147B; venation, close to 183A.

Petioles.—Length: About 15.9 cm. Diameter: About 4.5 mm by 5.5 mm. Strength: Strong. Texture and luster, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous; slightly to moderately glossy. Color, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 146C; moderately to heavily covered with fine dots, close to 183A.

Flower description:

Flower shape and habit.—Single rotate bowl-shaped flowers arranged in panicles; freely flowering habit with about 5 to 13 flowers per inflorescence and about 60 flowers and flower buds per plant; flowers face mostly outwardly to slightly nodding.

Fragrance.—None detected.

Natural flowering season.—Plants begin flowering about ten months after planting; plants flower naturally from late winter into the early spring in Germany.

Flower longevity on the plant.—About ten days; sepals persistent, other flower parts are not persistent.

Flower buds.—Length: About 2.1 cm. Diameter: About 1.2 cm. Shape: Ovate. Texture and luster: Smooth, glabrous; slightly glossy. Color: Close to a blend of 183A and 187A; towards the apex, close to 183C.

Inflorescence height (including peduncle).—About 39.4 cm.

Inflorescence diameter.—About 19.5 cm.

Flower diameter.—About 6.4 cm.

Flower depth.—About 3 cm.

Petals.—All petals are transformed into nectaries.

Sepals.—Quantity and arrangement: About five, arranged in a single whorl. Length: About 3.9 cm. Width: About 3.2 cm. Shape: Broadly ovate, slightly to moderately concave. Apex: Broadly and bluntly acute. Base: Cuneate. Margin: Entire. Texture and luster, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous; slightly glossy. Color: When opening, upper surface: Close to 160C; towards the apex and margins, close to 184D and 185C. When opening, lower surface: Close to 185B and 187B to 187D; center, close to 160D. Fully opened, upper surface: Close to a blend of 150C and 160C; towards the apex and margins, close to 185C and 186A; venation, similar to lamina colors; color does not change with subsequent development. Fully opened, lower surface: Close to 185B and 187B to 187D; center, close to 160D; venation, similar to lamina colors; color does not change with subsequent development.

Flower bracts.—Quantity per flower: Typically one. Length: About 7.2 cm. Width: About 3.5 cm. Shape: Ovate to oblong. Apex: Acute to cleft or three-parted with acute tips. Base: Truncate to obtuse. Margin: Proximally, entire; distally, finely serrate; coarsely undulate. Color, upper surface: Close to NN137A; venation, close to 144A, tinged proximally with close to 183D. Color, lower surface: Close to 148A, strongly tinged with close to a blend of N186C and 200B; venation, close to a blend of N186C and 200B.

Peduncles.—Length: About 33.7 cm. Diameter: About 7.5 mm to 8 mm. Aspect: About 20 degrees from vertical. Strength: Strong. Texture and luster: Smooth, glabrous; moderately glossy. Color: Close to 144B; heavily covered with fine dots, close to 183D, proximally, more heavily dotted, dots, close to 183A in color.

Pedicels.—Length: About 2.2 cm. Diameter: About 2.25 mm. Aspect: About 10 to 40 degrees from peduncle axis. Strength: Moderately strong. Texture and luster: Smooth, glabrous; moderately glossy. Color: Close to 183B; moderately covered with fine dots, close to 177D.

Reproductive organs.—Stamens: Quantity per flower: About 60. Filament length: About 1.4 cm. Filament color: Close to 150D; distally, close to 75B to 75C. Anther shape: Double and broadly reniform; basifixed. Anther size: About 2 mm by 3 mm. Anther color: Close to 154C. Pollen amount: Sparse. Pollen color: Close to 4D to lighter than 4D. Pistils: Quantity per flower: About five to eight. Pistil length: About 1.5 cm. Stigma diameter: About 0.3 mm. Stigma shape: Club-shaped. Stigma color: Close to 150D. Style length: About 1.45 cm. Style color: Close to 184B. Ovary color: Close to 145B. Nectaries (transformed petals): Quantity per flower: About 11 to 13. Length: About 1.1 cm. Diameter: About 4 mm. Shape: Tubular, flattened; apices, obtuse. Texture and luster, inner and outer surfaces: Smooth, glabrous; slightly glossy. Color, immature, inner surface: Close to 145A; towards the apex, close to N144A. Color, immature, outer surface: Close to 145A; towards the apex, close to N144A and towards the base, close to 151A. Color, mature, inner surface: Close to 146C to 146D; towards the apex, close to 153C; with subsequent development, color becoming closer to 152D and towards the apex, close to 153C. Color, mature, outer surface: Close to 146C to 146D; towards the apex, close to 153C; towards the base, close to 151A; with subsequent development, color becoming closer to 152D and towards the apex, close to 153C and towards the base, close to 153A.

Seeds and fruits.—To date, seed and fruit development have not been observed on plants of the new *Helleborus*.

Garden performance: Plants of the new *Helleborus* have been observed to have good garden performance and to tolerate rain, wind, high temperatures about 35 C and to be suitable for USDA Hardiness Zones 5 through 9.

Pathogen & pest resistance: To date, plants of the new *Helleborus* have not been observed to be resistant to pathogens and pests common to *Helleborus* plants.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct *Helleborus* plant named 'HM 1212' as illustrated and described.

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FIG. 1



FIG. 2