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**Yamada**

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(54) **CATHARANTHUS PLANT NAMED**  
**‘SUNCATHA 2243’**

(50) Latin Name: *Catharanthus roseus*  
Varietal Denomination: **Suncatha 2243**

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**A01H 5/02** (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**  
USPC ..... **Plt./263.1**  
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(58) **Field of Classification Search**

USPC ..... Plt./263.1, 226  
CPC ..... A01H 5/02; A01H 5/00  
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

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Plt./263.1

**OTHER PUBLICATIONS**

“2012 Spring-Summer gardening catalog,” Daiichi Engei Co., Ltd., Oct. 2011, pp. 22-23.  
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

Disclosed herein is a new and distinct variety of *Catharanthus* plant having vigorous, upright plant characteristics, abundant branching, especially basally branching, developed from the base of the plant throughout the growing season, great profusion of single, red-pink flowers, the whole bush remaining in bloom for a considerable period of time and deeply bitten petals, shaped of hastate, incurvated.

**2 Drawing Sheets**

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Botanical designation: *Catharanthus roseus*.  
Cultivar denomination: ‘Suncatha 2243’.

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention relates to a new and distinct variety of *Catharanthus* plant, which is hereinafter referred to by the name of ‘Suncatha 2243’.

*Catharanthus roseus*, which is also known as *Vinca rosea*, is a very popular plant that is used for flower bedding and potting in the summer and autumn season.

The purpose of this invention is to obtain a new *Catharanthus* cultivar having vigorous, upright plant characteristics, abundant branching, especially basally branching, developed from the base of the plant throughout the growing season, great profusion of single, red-pink flowers, the whole bush remaining in bloom for a considerable period of time and irregularly incised petals, shaped of hastate, incurvated.

The new *Catharanthus* plant was originated from a cross-pollination of the female parent ‘MC21-52’ and the male parent ‘MC21-5’. The female parent ‘MC21-52’ (unpatented) used in the crossing of ‘Suncatha 2243’ is a strain of applicant’s breeding lines (i.e., proprietary *Catharanthus roseus* selection), having pink petals, and the male parent

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‘MC21-5’ (unpatented) used in the crossing of ‘Suncatha 2243’ is a strain of applicant’s breeding lines (i.e., proprietary *Catharanthus roseus* selection), having deep purple petals. The cross-pollination was conducted in August, 2011 at Yame-gun, Fukuoka, Japan.

In February 2012, the seedlings obtained by the crossing were planted in field, and some seedlings were selected in view of growth habit, flower size and color thereof. In August 2012, the stem tip culturing was carried out, and then the propagation was started.

In July 2013, the cultivation of the seedlings was repeated. The botanical characteristics of that plant were then examined, using similar varieties ‘Daiichi-MC21-41’ and ‘Daiichi-MC21-25’ for comparison. As a result, it was concluded that this *Catharanthus* plant is distinguishable from any other variety, whose existence is currently known, and is uniform and stable in its characteristics.

The new variety of *Catharanthus roseus* plant is named ‘Suncatha 2243’.

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

This new variety is unlike any *Catharanthus* plants commercially available as evidenced by the following unique combinations of characteristics.

1. Vigorous, upright plant characteristics.
2. Abundant branching, especially basally branching, developed from the base of the plant throughout the growing season.
3. Great profusion of single, red-pink flowers, the whole bush remaining in bloom for a considerable period of time.
4. Irregularly incised petals, shaped of hastate, incurvated.

The new variety ‘Suncatha 2243’ differs from the similar variety ‘Daiichi-MC21-41’, which was applied for Japanese plant variety protection (the application number: 25151; the application date: Aug. 31, 2010; the registration number 21646; the registration date: Mar. 19, 2012), in the following points.

1. The petals overlap of ‘Suncatha 2243’ is contacting. That of ‘Daiichi-MC21-41’ is separating.
2. The main color of surface of corolla lobe of ‘Suncatha 2243’ is red-pink (RHS 60D). That of ‘Daiichi-MC21-41’ is RED-PURPLE (RHS 61C).

The new variety ‘Suncatha 2243’ differs from the similar variety ‘Daiichi-MC21-25’, which was applied for Japanese plant variety protection (the application number: 26287; the application date: Sep. 8, 2011 ; the registration number 22599; the registration date: Jul. 29, 2013), in the following points.

1. The leaf size (L×W) of ‘Suncatha 2243’ is 50.2 mm×20 mm. The leaf size of ‘Daiichi-MC21-25’ is 60 mm×33 mm.
2. The flower diameter of ‘Suncatha 2243’ is 32.1 mm. That of ‘Daiichi-MC21-25’ is 40 mm.
3. The main color of surface of corolla lobe of ‘Suncatha 2243’ is red-pink (RHS 60D). That of ‘MC21-25’ is purple (RHS N80B).

This new variety of *Catharanthus* plant ‘Suncatha 2243’ was asexially reproduced by the use of cuttings at Higashiomi, Shiga, Japan, and homogeneity and stability thereof were confirmed. The instant plant retains its distinctive characteristics and produces true to type in successive generations.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The depicted plants had been reproduced by the use of cuttings and were photographed during October 2013 while growing outdoors in wall pots with about 15 cm of container size at an age of approximately 6 months.

The second sheet is a photograph of a typical plant of the new variety of *Catharanthus* plant ‘Suncatha 2243’ while growing in a pot.

The first sheet is a photograph of a close view of flowers of the new variety of *Catharanthus* plant ‘Suncatha 2243’.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

In October 2013, the cultivation of the seedlings was repeated at Higashiomi, Shiga, Japan. The average day temperature was about 25° C., and the average night temperature was about 15° C. The plants were grown under natural sunlight. The number of days to flowering (response time) was about 3 to 4 weeks. The keeping quality was about 180 days. The plants had temperature resistance to about 5° C. (the lowest temperature) and about 35 to 40° C. (the highest temperature). Further, the plants had the same tolerance to pests and pathogens as a typical *Catharanthus* plant.

For the parentage information: The female parent ‘MC21-52’ (unpatented) used in the crossing of ‘Suncatha 2243’ is a strain of applicant’s breeding lines (i.e., proprietary *Catharanthus roseus* selection), having pink petals, and the male parent ‘MC21-5’ (unpatented) used in the crossing of ‘Suncatha 2243’ is a strain of applicant’s breeding lines (i.e., proprietary *Catharanthus roseus* selection), having deep purple petals.

For the propagation information: the new cultivar was propagated by cutting; the number of days to initiate roots during the summer was about two weeks; approximate soil and/or air temperature during the summer was around 30° C.; the number of days to initiate roots during the winter was about three weeks; approximate soil and/or air temperature during the winter was around 25° C.; the number of days to produce a rooted young plant during the summer was about five weeks; the number of days to produce a rooted young plant during the winter was about six weeks; root density was moderate; root branching was free; root color was white; and root texture was fibrous.

The botanical characteristics of the new and distinct variety of *Catharanthus* plant named ‘Suncatha 2243’ at an age of approximately 4 months are shown in the following Table. In the following description, the color-coding is in accordance with the Horticultural Colour Chart of The Royal Horticultural Society, London, England (R.H.S. Colour Chart The 5th edition 2007).

PLANT VARIETY DESCRIPTION	
CHARACTERISTIC	APPLICATION VARIETY Suncatha 2243
ANNUAL, BIENNIAL or PERENNIAL?	Grown as annual.
TYPE OF PLANT: i.e., TREE, SHRUB, SUBSHRUB, VINE, CUT FLOWER, POTTED PLANT	Potted plant
APPROPRIATE CONTAINERS +/- or CROPPING SYSTEM	Ideal for pots, hanging basket.
GROWTH HABIT	Upright
PLANT HEIGHT	About 23.0 cm
PLANT DIAMETER OR AREA OF SPREAD	About 23.0 cm
PLANT VIGOR	Vigorous
BRANCHING HABIT	Freely branching
BASAL BRANCHING?	Present
PINCHING REQUIRED?	Not required.
NUMBER OF LATERAL BRANCHES	About 5
NUMBER OF SECONDARY LATERAL BRANCHES	About 4
LATERAL BRANCH LENGTH	About 14.5 cm
LATERAL BRANCH DIAMETER	About 4.1 mm
INTERNODE LENGTH	About 20.9 mm
STEM ASPECT	Upright to outward
STEM COLOR (and bark color, if applicable)	RHS Near 144D
STEM COLOR (if any)	RHS Near 187C
STEM PUBESCENCE?	Present, few
OTHER PLANT/STEM CHARACTERISTICS	—
LEAF ARRANGEMENT	Opposite
COMPOUND OR SIMPLE?	Simple
QUANTITY OF LEAVES PER LATERAL BRANCH	About 16
LEAF (LEAFLET) SHAPE	Oblong
LEAF (LEAFLET) TIP	Acute
LEAF (LEAFLET) BASE	Obtuse
LEAF LENGTH	About 50.2 mm
LEAF WIDTH	About 20.0 mm
LEAF THICKNESS	About 0.3 mm
LEAF (LEAFLET) TEXTURE	Pubescent, both sides
LEAF PUBESCENCE? WHICH SIDE?	Present

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PLANT VARIETY DESCRIPTION	
CHARACTERISTIC	APPLICATION VARIETY Suncatha 2243
LEAF (LEAFLET) MARGIN	Entire
VENATION PATTERN	Reticulate venation
LEAF COLOR, YOUNG, UPPER SIDE	RHS Near 137C
LEAF COLOR, YOUNG, UNDER SIDE	RHS Near 137D
LEAF COLOR, MATURE, UPPER SIDE	RHS Near N137A
LEAF COLOR, MATURE, UNDER SIDE	RHS Naer 137D
VENATION COLOR, UPPER SIDE	RHS Near 144C
VENATION COLOR, UNDER SIDE	RHS Near 144D
VARIATION?	Absent
PETIOLE?	Present
PETIOLE LENGTH	About 5.9 mm
PETIOLE DIAMETER	About 1.5 mm
PETIOLE TEXTURE	Pubescent
PETIOLE COLOR	RHS Near 144C
OTHER FOLIAGE CHARACTERISTICS	—
FLOWER ARRANGEMENT	Borne in upper leaf axils.
INFLORESCENCE TYPE OR FORM (if applicable)	Solitary
QUANTITY OF FLOWERS PER PLANT	About 50
FLOWER TYPE or FORM	Single
FLOWERING HABIT	Continuously
NATURAL FLOWERING SEASON	Early summer to late autumn
TIME TO FLOWER OR RESPONSE TIME	About 2~3 weeks
FRAGRANCE	Absent
FLOWER BUD LENGTH	About 33.8 mm
FLOWER BUD DIAMETER	About 4.4 mm
FLOWER BUD SHAPE	Ovoid
FLOWER BUD COLOR	RHS Near 58A
FLOWER ASPECT; i.e., UPRIGHT, OUTWARD, DROOPING, etc.	Upright
FLOWER PARACOROLLA	Absent
FLOWER DIAMETER	About 32.1 mm
FLOWER DEPTH (HEIGHT)	About 41.9 mm
FLOWER LONGEVITY ON PLANT	About 2~3 days
PERSISTENT OR SELF-CLEANING?	Not persistent.
PETAL TEXTURE, UPPER SURFACE	Smooth
PETAL TEXTURE, LOWER SURFACE	Smooth
TUBE TEXTURE	Smooth, pubescent few
PETAL ARRANGEMENT	Free
PETAL NUMBER	5
PETALS FUSED?	Fused
PETAL SHAPE	Hastate
PETAL MARGIN	Absent
PETAL SHAPE, SYMMETRY OR ASYMMETRY?	Asymmetry
PETAL TIP	irregularly incised
PETAL BASE	Fused
PETAL LENGTH	About 15.4 mm
PETAL WIDTH	About 13.2 mm
PETAL COLOR, WHEN OPENING, UPPER SIDE	RHS Near 60B
PETAL COLOR, WHEN OPENING, LOWER SIDE	RHS Near 59D
PETAL COLOR, FULLY OPENED, UPPER SIDE	RHS Near 60D
PETAL COLOR, FULLY OPENED, LOWER SIDE	RHS Near 63B to 63C
FLOWER EYE	Having lines.
FLOWER EYE DIAMETER	Absent
FLOWER EYE COLOR	—
RECEPTACLE	Present
RECEPTACLE COLOR	RHS Near 3C
TUBE DIAMETER	About 1.7 mm
TUBE LENGTH	About 26.5 mm

PLANT VARIETY DESCRIPTION	
CHARACTERISTIC	APPLICATION VARIETY Suncatha 2243
THROAT COLOR (inside)	RHS Near 145C
TUBE COLOR (outside)	Upper of tube: RHS Near 166A Throat: RHS Near 144C Near receptacle: RHS Near 178B
SEPAL ARRANGEMENT	Single whorl
NUMBER OF SEPALS	5
SEPAL SHAPE	Linear-triangular
SEPAL MARGIN	Entire
SEPAL TIP	Acute
SEPAL BASE	Fused
SEPAL LENGTH	About 3.2 mm
SEPAL WIDTH	About 1.0 mm
SEPAL COLOR, IMMATURE, UPPER SIDE	RHS Near 144A
SEPAL COLOR, IMMATURE, UNDER SIDE	RHS Near 144A
SEPAL COLOR, MATURE, UPPER SIDE	RHS Near 144A
SEPAL COLOR, MATURE, UNDER SIDE	RHS Near 144A
CALYX SHAPE	Star shape
CALYX LENGTH	About 4.5 mm
CALYX DIAMETER	About 4.9 mm
PEDUNCLE LENGTH	About 4.5 mm
PEDUNCLE DIAMETER	About 1.7 mm
PEDUNCLE ANGLE	Upright
PEDUNCLE TEXTURE	Smooth, pubescent few
PEDUNCLE COLOR	RHS Near 144C
STAMEN NUMBER	5
STAMEN LENGTH	About 2.8 mm
ANTHER SHAPE	Narrow elliptic
ANTHER SIZE (L)	About 2.6 mm
ANTHER SIZE (W)	About 1.2 mm
ANTHER COLOR	RHS Near 1C
AMOUNT OF POLLEN	Few
POLLEN COLOR	RHS Near 8D
PISTIL NUMBER	1
PISTIL LENGTH	About 22.6 mm
STIGMA SHAPE	Transversely ellipsoidal
STIGMA COLOR	RHS Near 138C
STYLE COLOR	RHS Near 145C
OVARY COLOR	RHS Near 144B
OTHER FLOWER CHARACTERISTICS	—
QUANTITY OF SEEDS	Seeds production has not been observed.
ROOT STRUCTURES such as BULBS, CORMS or RHIZOMES?	Fibrous root
LOW TEMPERATURE TOLERANCE	Around 5° C.
HIGH TEMPERATURE TOLERANCE	Around 35° C.~40° C.
DISEASE RESISTANCE AND/OR SUSCEPTIBILITY	Normal
RESISTANCE OF PESTS AND/OR SUSCEPTIBILITY	Normal

This new variety of *Catharanthus* plant having the above botanical characteristics is suitable for flower bedding and potting, particularly in hanging pots or planters.

What is claimed:

1. A new and distinct variety of *Catharanthus* plant named 'Suncatha 2243', substantially as herein illustrated and described.

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