PLANT VARIETY OF DAVIDIA INVOLUCRATA NAMED ‘PURPLELEAF’

Latin Name: Davidia involucrata
Varietal Denomination: Purpleleaf

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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.

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct variety of Davidia involucrata, which was developed in a controlled breeding program in Kawaguchi City, Japan, by the originator Mr. Akira Shibamichi. The varietal denomination of the new variety is ‘Purpleleaf’.

The genus Davidia is included in the family Davidiaceae, which comprises one genus and one species originating in Western China. Davidia involucrata is uncommon in its native habit of Western China. It generally has a habit of a 20 meter tall deciduous tree with a dominant central leader, branches thick, glabrous. Leaf color is green, depending on light intensity and cultural conditions. Leaves are generally broadly ovate, 8 to 24 cms long, cordate at base, dentate, glossy and glabrous above, densely gray tomentose beneath. Petioles are 4 to 5 cms long, red, flowers are about 2cm wide, surrounded by 2 opposite, uneven sized, 8 to 16 cm long, pendulous, yellowish white involucral leaves. Plant blooms May to June on older, mature specimens often more than 20 years in age. Fruits are ellipsoid, about 2.5 cms long.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The new variety was discovered as an open pollinated seedling in a controlled planting of Davidia involucrata. The new variety differs from its parents in bearing dark burgundy colored foliage in spring and continuing through leaf abscission in fall. Asexual reproduction of the new variety in Kawaguchi City, Japan by grafting has confirmed that the distinctive characteristics of the new variety are stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations of asexual propagation.

COMPARISON WITH PARENTS

‘Purpleleaf’ is distinguished from its parents and all other varieties of Davidia involucrata of which I am aware, including the specific variety, Davidia involucrata var. Vilmoriniana (not patented) by the dark burgundy colored foliage in spring through leaf abscission in fall.

ABSTRACT

A new plant variety of Davidia involucrata distinguished from its parents and all other varieties of Davidia involucrata of which I am aware by the dark burgundy colored foliage in spring through leaf abscission in fall.

1 Drawing Sheet
Leaf:

Leaf size.—8 to 14 cms long and 5 to 8 cms wide.
Arrangement.—Alternate.
Margin.—Entire.
Texture/substance.—Glossy and glabrous above and densely tomentose beneath.
Venation.—Pattern: Upper Surface Impressed.

Internodes.—3 to 8 cms.
Hardiness.—USDA Zone 5 (~20° F. to ~10° F.). Vigor.—Moderate.
Pests/diseases.—None noted.
Inflorescence. None yet observed.
I claim:

1. A new and distinct Davidia involucrata plant of the variety substantially as shown and described.

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