



APPLICATIONS UNDER EXAMINATION

ABELIA

ABELIA
(Abelia chinensis)

Proposed denomination: 'Keiser'
Trade name: Ruby Anniversary
Application number: 09-6712
Application date: 2009/08/10
Applicant: Spring Meadow Nursery, Inc., Grand Haven, Michigan, United States of America
Agent in Canada: BioFlora Inc., St. Thomas, Ontario
Breeder: Susan Keiser, Ossining, New York, United States of America

Variety used for comparison: species *Abelia chinensis*

Summary: *The plants of 'Keiser' are narrower than the species Abelia chinensis. The degree of branching is higher in 'Keiser' than the species Abelia chinensis. 'Keiser' has a thicker stem than the species Abelia chinensis. The leaf of 'Keiser' is narrower than the species Abelia chinensis. 'Keiser' has a brown red sepal colour while it is an orange brown colour with pink tones at the apex for the species Abelia chinensis. The flower of 'Keiser' is larger than in the species Abelia chinensis.*

Description:

PLANT: deciduous flowering shrub, bushy to spreading growth habit, high degree of branching, medium foliage density

STEM: thick, smooth, main stem brown, lateral stem red

LEAF: opposite arrangement, simple, ovate shape, acute apex, weakly cordate base, weakly dentate margin, shallow margin incisions, strong glossiness, sparse pubescence on upper side, medium pubescence on midrib of lower side, dark green (RHS N137A) on upper side, medium green (RHS 147C) on lower side, no variegation, petiole present

INFLORESCENCE: flowers arranged both terminally and axillary in a cluster type fashion

SEPAL: brown red (RHS 181D) on upper and lower sides

FLOWER: funnel shaped, medium fragrance, upper side white (RHS NN155D) with a light blue violet (RHS 69C) blush, lower side white (RHS NN155D) with blue pink (RHS 73B) tones

FILAMENT: white

ANTHER: pale pink

Origin and Breeding: 'Keiser' was discovered in 1995 as a chance seedling by Susan Keiser in her garden in Ossining, New York, USA. The parentage of the variety is unknown, but observed characteristics suggest that it likely originated from *Abelia chinensis*. The new variety was selected in 1995 based on its growth habit, stem colour, foliage colour and flower size.

Tests and Trials: Trials for 'Keiser' were conducted in an outdoor irrigated container trial during the summer of 2009 in St. Thomas, Ontario. The trial included a total of 8 plants of the candidate variety and 5 of the reference variety. All plants were grown from 5.7 cm liners planted into 7.6 litre containers in May 2009. Trials were arranged with approximately 0.5 meter spacing between plants. Observations and measurements were taken of each variety on September 10, 2009. All colour measurements were made using the 2007 Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Colour Chart.

Comparison table for 'Keiser'

	'Keiser'	species <i>Abelia chinensis</i> *
<i>Plant width (cm)</i>		
mean	56.8	91.2
std. deviation	10.48	13.31

Leaf width (cm)

mean	2.1	2.7
std. deviation	0.2	0.22

Flower length (cm)

mean	2.1	1.5
std. deviation	0.07	0.09

Flower width (cm)

mean	1.6	1.2
std. deviation	0.07	0.09

Sepal colour (RHS)

upper side	181D with strong 181C overlay	N170D with 182D at apex
lower side	181D with weak 181C overlay	N170D with 182D at apex

*reference variety



Abelia: 'Keiser' (left) with reference variety *Abelia chinensis* (right)



Abelia: 'Keiser' (left) with reference variety *Abelia chinensis* (right)



Abelia: 'Keiser' (left) with reference variety *Abelia chinensis* (right)