

PTO/PCT Rec'd 13 AUG 2001

FORM PTO-1595

08-31-2001

Docket No. 45156/DBP/A400



✓ VER SHEET

Box Assignment  
 Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
 Washington, D.C. 20231

101831055

8.13.01

Post Office Box 7068  
 Pasadena, CA 91109-7068

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks: Please record the attached original documents or copy thereof:

<b>1. Name of conveying party(ies):</b> Yasuhiro Obonai; Koji Furukawa; Hiroshi Yoshioka; Yuichi Mori; and Kazuhiro Kasuya  Additional name(s) of conveying party(ies) attached: No		<b>2. Name and address of receiving party(ies):</b> Name: <b>M&amp;M LABORATORY Co., Ltd.; and SANYO CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES, Ltd.</b>  Street Address: <b>275, Kumano, Enzan-shi, Yamanashi 404-0036, Japan; and 11-1, Ikkyo Nomotocho, Higashiyama-ku, Kyoto-shi, Kyoto 605-0995, Japan, Respectively</b>  Additional name(s) & address(es) attached? No			
<b>3. Name of conveyance:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assignment <input type="checkbox"/> Merger <input type="checkbox"/> Security Agreement <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Name <input type="checkbox"/> Other:  Execution Date: <b>06/13/01; 06/13/01; 06/04/01; 06/04/01; and 06/18/01</b>					
<b>4. Application number(s) or patent number(s):</b> If this document is being filed together with a new application, the execution date of the application is: .  <table border="1"> <tr> <td> <b>A. Patent Application No.(s)</b>  <u>09/831,257</u> </td> <td> <b>B. Patent No.(s)</b> </td> </tr> </table> Additional numbers attached? No				<b>A. Patent Application No.(s)</b> <u>09/831,257</u>	<b>B. Patent No.(s)</b>
<b>A. Patent Application No.(s)</b> <u>09/831,257</u>	<b>B. Patent No.(s)</b>				
<b>5. Please return the recorded document and address all correspondence to:</b> <b>CHRISTIE, PARKER &amp; HALE, LLP</b> P.O. Box 7068 Pasadena, CA 91109-7068 Attention: <b>D. Bruce Prout</b>		<b>6. Total number of applications and patents involved.....</b> <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">1</span>			
<b>10. <input type="checkbox"/> Explanatory letter is enclosed.</b>		<b>7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Total fee enclosed (37 CFR 3.41): \$ 40.00</b> <b>8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Any deficiency or overpayment of fees should be charged or credited to Deposit Account No. 03-1728, except for payment of issue fees required under 37 CFR § 1.18. Please show our docket number with any credit or charge to our Deposit Account.</b>			
<b>9. Statement and signature.</b> To the best of my knowledge and belief, the foregoing information is true and correct and any attached copy is a true copy of the original document.  Date: August 13, 2001 By <u><i>D. Bruce Prout</i></u> Name: <b>D. Bruce Prout</b> 626/795-9900					
<b>Express Mail No. EL483387691US</b>		<b>Total number of pages including cover sheet, attachments, and document:</b> <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">2</span>			

DBP/aam

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**PATENT**  
**REEL: 012113 FRAME: 0425**

# U.S. ASSIGNMENT

IN CONSIDERATION of the sum of One Dollar (\$1.00), and of other good and valuable consideration paid to the undersigned inventor(s) (hereinafter "ASSIGNOR") by

(Insert  
ASSIGNEE's  
Name(s)  
Address(es))

1) M&M LABORATORY Co., Ltd.

275, Kumano, Enzan-shi, Yamanashi 404-0036, Japan

2) SANYO CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES, Ltd.

11-1, Ikkyo Nomotocho, Higashiyama-ku, Kyoto-shi, Kyoto 605-0995, Japan

(hereinafter "ASSIGNEE"), the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, the undersigned ASSIGNOR hereby sells, assigns and transfers to ASSIGNEE the entire and exclusive right, title and interest to the invention entitled

(Title of  
Invention)

WATER-RETAINING SUPPORT FOR PLANTS AND PLANT BODY-GROWING

WATER-RETAINING MATERIAL

relating to International Patent Application PCT/JP 99 / 06187 and/or for which application for Letters Patent of the United States was executed on even date herewith or, if not so executed, was:

(Insert date  
of execution  
of application,  
if not  
concurrent)

(a) executed on \_\_\_\_\_

(Christie, Parker & Hale, LLP, CA

(b) filed on May 7, 2001

Serial No. 09 / 831,257

) is hereby authorized to insert in (b) the specified data, when known.

and to said application and all Letters Patent(s) of the United States granted on said application and any continuation, division, renewal, substitute, reissue or reexamination application based thereon, for the full term or terms for which the said Letters Patent(s) may be granted and including any extensions thereof (collectively, hereinafter, "said application(s) and Letters Patent(s)").

The ASSIGNOR agree(s), when requested by said ASSIGNEE and without charge to but at the expense of said ASSIGNEE, to do all acts which the ASSIGNEE may deem necessary, desirable or expedient, for securing, maintaining and enforcing protection for said invention, including in the preparation and prosecution of said application(s) and the issuance of said Letters Patent(s), in any interference, reissue, reexamination, or public use proceeding, and in any litigation or other legal proceeding which may arise or be declared in relation to same, such acts to include but not be limited to executing all papers, including separate assignments and declarations, taking all rightful oaths, providing sworn testimony, and obtaining and producing evidence.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned inventor(s) has (have) affixed his/her/their signature(s).

(Signatures)

1) Obonai, Yasuhiro  
(SIGNATURE)

Yasuhiro Obonai  
(TYPE NAME)

June 13, 2001  
(DATE)

2) Koji Furukawa  
(SIGNATURE)

Koji Furukawa  
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June 13, 2001  
(DATE)

3) Hiroshi Yoshioka  
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Hiroshi Yoshioka  
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4/June/2001  
(DATE)

4) Yuichi Mori  
(SIGNATURE)

Yuichi Mori  
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4/June 2001  
(DATE)

5) Kazuhiro Kasuya  
(SIGNATURE)

Kazuhiro Kasuya  
(TYPE NAME)

June 18, 2001  
(DATE)