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- (71) **Applicant:** SHEDRAIN CORPORATION [US/US];
8303 NE Killingsworth, P.O. Box 55460, Portland, OR
97238 (US).
- (72) **Inventors:** HAYTHORNTWHAITE, David, Ryan; Con-
tainer House, Huang Dao Lu, Jing Zhou le Yuan Xiamen,
Fujian Province 361005 (CN). HAYTHORNTWHAITE,
Andrew, Paul; Container House, Huang Dao Lu, Jing
Zhou le Yuan Xiamen, Fujian Province 361005 (CN).

(74) **Agents:** ELLIS, Edward, J. et al.; Leason Ellis LLP, One
Barker Avenue, Fifth Floor, White Plains, NY 10601 (US).

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(54) **Title:** UMBRELLA HAVING IMPROVED SHAFT AND RIB ASSEMBLY

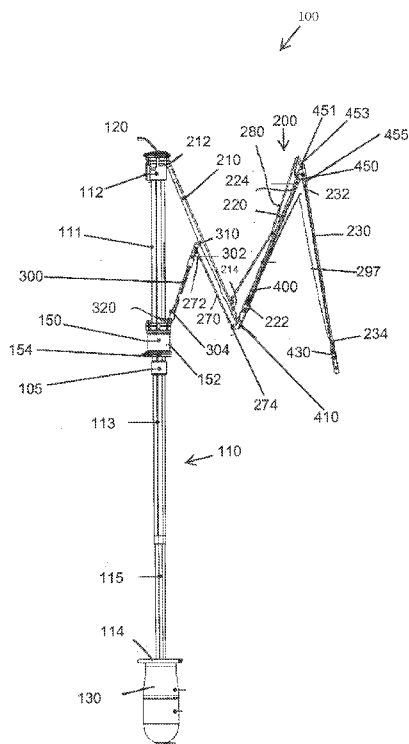


Fig. 1

(57) **Abstract:** An umbrella is formed of an elongated shaft having a first end and an opposite second end and a runner slidably disposed about the elongated shaft. The umbrella includes a rib assembly including a plurality of ribs that are attached to the runner by a plurality of struts that move between open and closed positions. In accordance with the present invention, the elongated shaft has a cross-sectional shape defined by a plurality of curved sections and a plurality of planar sections interspersed between the plurality of curved sections for providing increased torsional strength to the elongated shaft. At least one of the ribs can have a cross-sectional shape defined by a plurality of curved sections and a plurality of planar sections interspersed between the plurality of curved sections for providing increased torsional strength to the at least one rib.



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