



In-vitro conservation of *Momordica cymbalaria* Hook. f. by Leaf culture.

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ABSTRACT

Momordica cymbalaria is a tuberous and monoecious species. It is rare and endemic medicinal plant found to be distributed at few localities in Maharashtra, A.P. and Karnataka. Due to its food and medicinal value the species is extensively exploited by the local people hence it is the time to protect the species by means of conservation. Leaf is a photosynthetic part of the plant body. There are relatively very few reports about leaf as an explant in cucurbits. So In the present study *In vitro* culture technique is used as a conservation strategy for *M. cymbalaria*. by using leaf as an explant.

Key words: *In-vitro* culture, leaf culture, *M. cymbalaria*, conservation

Abbreviations: 2, 4-D-2,4-Dichlorophenoxy Acetic Acid, NAA - Naphthalene Acetic Acid, CI- Callus Induction, MS- MultishootMS media-Murashige and Skoog's Media(1962)

INTRODUCTION:

The Cucurbits are among the most ancient plants used by human beings. Many species are also used in medicinal and therapeutics. Due to tremendous applications the cucurbit species are exploited in large quantity. Restricted distribution, low seed germination and ecological as well as environmental threats are also the reasons behind rarity and endangeredness of wild cucurbits in general and *Momordica cymbalaria* in particular. As a result cucurbits are attracting the attention of researchers for conservation as well as cultivation aspects.(Chavan, N. S., 2000).In the present study *In vitro* culture technique is used as a

conservation strategy for *M. cymbalaria*. In the present investigation leaf explants were used on the modified MS media with different proportions of hormones.

Material and Methods:

Extensive field visits were made for the collection of plant from different localities of Solapur district. Plants were collected and maintained in the Botanical garden of Shivaji University as a source of explants. Culture tubes (150mm X 25 mm), conical flasks, pipettes, measuring cylinders, volumetric flasks, Petri dishes, were soaked in 1N HCl for 48 Hrs. and then washed with solution of labolene and rinsed thoroughly with distilled water. All the glass wares wrapped in aluminum foil and autoclaved at 1.06 Kg/cm² pressure and 121 °C temperature for 30 min. Sterilization of culture media was done by autoclaving the medium. Explant such as stem of *M.cymbalaria* was first washed under running tap water for 30 min to remove soil and dust particles. Then the explants were washed with solution of labolene and rinsed thoroughly with distilled water and kept ready for explants sterilization. All chemicals used in the experiment were of analytical grade (Himedia) Murashige and Skoog (1962) media. Each experiment with three replicates was arranged and then result was recorded on the basis of physical appearance of the explant. It is clear from the results that 0.15% of mercuric chloride was more effective than other concentrations the explants remain green and show positive response. The lower concentration of HgCl₂ shows contamination of explant and higher concentration of HgCl₂ affects the explant tissue

adversely and it becomes brown. All the cultures were incubated in a growth room at relative humidity of 60% at the temperature of 24 ± 2 °C under white fluorescent light (2000lux 16watt) provided by Phillips fluorescent tubes (TL40W/a cool day light). For the hardening of plantlets, plastic cups (5cm diameter) filled with autoclaved hardening mix of soil, sand and compost was used in various proportions. The explants were kept in culture room for two weeks to avoid desiccation after the plantlets were then transferred to 50% shade house for further hardening and then finally brought to field for general cultivation.

Results and Discussion

The MS- medium supplemented with BAP (3.0 mg/l) in combination with NAA (3.0 mg/l) showed swelling and caulogenesis (69%) in the leaf explants. The BAP (3.0 mg/l) in combination with NAA (3.0 mg/l) was proved to be effective for multishoot induction (**Table No.-1**). Similar kind of response of BAP and NAA in *Cucumis sativus* was observed by Josekutty *et al.*, (1993); Sarmiento *et al.*, (1992) and Shirgave, (2003), Mehul G P., Kalpesh B. I. (2015). The very high concentration and very low concentration of these two growth regulators did not influence positively. The plant material either shows swelling or remains green. The callus was also induced and

proliferated (77%) on MS-I medium supplemented with BAP and 2, 4-D (3.0 mg /l each) in combination (**Table No.2**). The leaf explants cultured on MS-I medium enriched with NAA (3.0 mg /l) in combination with 2, 4-D (3.0 mg /l) shows callus induction as well as multishoot induction (77%) (**Table No.-3**). In the present experiment, the explant showed swelling and remain green with poor callus initiation in remaining combination of growth regulator.

Conclusion

The above result indicates that BAP has supplementary effect with NAA in callus initiation and multishoot induction and also NAA has supplementary effect with 2, 4-D in callus initiation and multishoot induction. However BAP with 2, 4-D influence only the initiation of callus. This kind of response with respect to supply of exogenous growth regulator exhibited species as well as organ specificity in culture

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Table No.1: Influence of BAP in combination with NAA on *in vitro* response of leaf explant of *M. cymbalaria* (Culture period 4 weeks)

Growth regulators(mg/l)		% of cultures showing response	Morphological nature of explant / callus
BAP	NAA		
0.1	1.0	-----	No response
0.5	1.0	5.4±0.2	Remains green
1.0	1.0	15.4±0.9	Swelling
2.0	1.0	18.3±1.5	Swelling
3.0	1.0	16.3±1.5	Swelling
4.0	1.0	5.0±0.1	Remains green
5.0	1.0	8.3±0.5	Remains green
0.1	2.0	6.3±0.5	No response
0.5	2.0	10.8±0.2	Remains green
1.0	2.0	14.7±0.8	Swelling
2.0	2.0	14±0.6	Swelling
3.0	2.0	12.2±0.5	Swelling
4.0	2.0	21.0±0.2	Remains green
5.0	2.0	8±0.2	Remains green
0.1	3.0	3.2±0.2	Remains green
0.5	3.0	4.1±0.0	Remains green

1.0	3.0	7.2±1.0	Swelling
2.0	3.0	64.5±1.1	Swelling,CI
3.0	3.0	69.0±0.2	Swelling,CI,MS
4.0	3.0	7±0.4	Remains green
5.0	3.0	5±0.1	Remains green
0.1	4.0	2.3±0.0	Remains green
0.5	4.0	3±0.2	Remains green
1.0	4.0	5±0.0	Swelling
2.0	4.0	11.3±0.3	Swelling
3.0	4.0	9.2±0.1	Swelling
4.0	4.0	6±0.2	Remains green
5.0	4.0	2±0.2	Brown

Table No. 3: Influence of NAA in combination with 2, 4-D on *in vitro* culture of leaf explant of *M. cymbalaria* (Culture period 4 weeks)

Growth regulators(mg/l)		%age of cultures showing response	Morphological nature of explant / callus
NAA	2,4-D		
0.1	1.0	2.1±0.1	No response
0.5	1.0	2.3±0.0	Remains green
1.0	1.0	5±0.1	Swelling
2.0	1.0	14±0.3	Swelling
3.0	1.0	14±0.3	Swelling
4.0	1.0	12±1.2	Remains green
5.0	1.0	-----	No response
0.1	2.0	2.5±0.1	No response
0.5	2.0	9±0.5	Remains green
1.0	2.0	14.5±0.1	Swelling
2.0	2.0	56±2.7	Swelling,CI
3.0	2.0	64±1.5	Swelling,CI
4.0	2.0	21±0.72	Swelling
5.0	2.0	7.2±1.5	No response
0.1	3.0	5±0.1	No response
0.5	3.0	6±0.2	Remains green
1.0	3.0	7±0.2	Swelling
2.0	3.0	74±3.0	Swelling,CI
3.0	3.0	77±2.0	Swelling,CI,MS
4.0	3.0	22±2.4	Swelling
5.0	3.0	5±0.1	No response
0.1	4.0	4.1±0.0	No response
0.5	4.0	6.3±0.6	Remains green
1.0	4.0	10±0.0	Swelling
2.0	4.0	41±0.8	Swelling,CI
3.0	4.0	46±1.7	Swelling,CI
4.0	4.0	32±1.2	Swelling,CI
5.0	4.0	4±0.1	Remains green

Table No. 3: Influence of NAA in combination with 2, 4-D on *in vitro* culture of leaf explant of *M. cymbalaria* (Culture period 4 weeks)

Growth regulators(mg/l)		%age of cultures showing response	Morphological nature of explant / callus
NAA	2,4-D		
0.1	1.0	2.1±0.1	No response
0.5	1.0	2.3±0.0	Remains green
1.0	1.0	5±0.1	Swelling
2.0	1.0	14±0.3	Swelling
3.0	1.0	14±0.3	Swelling
4.0	1.0	12±1.2	Remains green
5.0	1.0	-----	No response
0.1	2.0	2.5±0.1	No response
0.5	2.0	9±0.5	Remains green
1.0	2.0	14.5±0.1	Swelling
2.0	2.0	56±2.7	Swelling,CI
3.0	2.0	64±1.5	Swelling,CI
4.0	2.0	21±0.72	Swelling
5.0	2.0	7.2±1.5	No response
0.1	3.0	5±0.1	No response
0.5	3.0	6±0.2	Remains green
1.0	3.0	7±0.2	Swelling
2.0	3.0	74±3.0	Swelling,CI
3.0	3.0	77±2.0	Swelling,CI,MS
4.0	3.0	22±2.4	Swelling
5.0	3.0	5±0.1	No response
0.1	4.0	4.1±0.0	No response
0.5	4.0	6.3±0.6	Remains green
1.0	4.0	10±0.0	Swelling
2.0	4.0	41±0.8	Swelling,CI
3.0	4.0	46±1.7	Swelling,CI
4.0	4.0	32±1.2	Swelling,CI
5.0	4.0	4±0.1	Remains green

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