

Callus induction of leaf explants of *Talinum paniculatum*

Prianangkai Karuppiah; Weng Hing Thong

Abstract— *Talinum paniculatum* is an edible plant with enormous medicinal properties. The main focus of this study was on callus induction due to the natural ability of callus that can regenerate into a new plant. This study was carried out to determine the effects of 2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic Acid (2,4-D) and 6-benzylaminopurine (BAP) on callus induction of *T. paniculatum* from leaf explant. Leaf explants of *T. paniculatum* were cultured on Murashige & Skoog (MS) media containing 2,4-D at concentrations of 1.0, 2.0, 3.0, 4.0 and 5.0 mg/L and BAP at concentrations of 0.5, 1.0, 1.5, 2.0 and 2.5 mg/L under single exposure or combined exposure. Explants cultured on medium containing no plant growth regulators (PGR) served as control in this experiment. The effectiveness of PGRs on callus induction of *T. paniculatum* was determined by recording the callus induction day, percentage of callus induced in all the treatments and morphology of the callus induced. Leaf explants treated with 2,4-D and BAP in combined exposure resulted in callus induction. Highest percentage of callus from leaf explants was produced on the medium containing 2.0 mg/L of 2,4-D and 2.5 mg/L of BAP in combined exposure. In conclusion, callus induction of *T. paniculatum* could serve as an alternative regeneration pathway for this important medicinal plant.

Keywords—callus, plant growth regulators, BAP, 2,4-D

I. Introduction

In general, callus is known as an unorganized growing mass of cells in response to stress which includes wounding of cells. Explants cultured on media suitable for formation of undifferentiated cell leads to development of callus. Callus production of most cells is aided by auxin and cytokinin [1]. In normal plant development the unorganized cell proliferation is suppressed but environmental and genetic impact overcome it to induce callus formation [2].

Callus induction requires equal concentration of cytokinin and auxin. High concentration of cytokinin from auxin would result in formation of shoots whereas high ratio

of auxin to cytokinin would induce the formation of root [3]. Callus induction process is more responsive in dicotyledonous plants when compared to monocotyledons. Meanwhile, woody plants seem to have even slower rate of callus induction [4]. Callus induction can be categorized according to their morphological structure which includes compact, friable and mucilaginous callus [5]. Commonly, friable callus is the most desired ones to be used compared to the two other types of callus [6].

T. paniculatum originates from the Portulacaceae family. The Portulacaceae family consist of 20 genera and 500 species. The *Talinum* genus comprises of 23 species [7]. *T. paniculatum* with a well-developed root system can grow up to 30 cm height [8]. It grows naturally all around the world and is widespread in North Africa, South America and East Asia especially in China. It is normally kept as a decorative plant in gardens and farms. It is also a medicinal plant that is used in the treatment of type-2 diabetes, headaches, pneumonia, diarrhea, gastrointestinal problems, common weakness and reproductive disorders [8]. Moreover, it also has the anti-inflammatory properties that aids in the treatment of inflammatory processes [8]. *T. paniculatum* also known as Jewels of opar, has stems that are seldom branched and if it is branched, the branches would be very few and distributed at the base. The leaves of the plants are arranged alternately, whereby it is attached directly to the base but not to the stalks [9]. The dark pink bowl shaped flowers of the plant are found on the lacy stalks of the plant [7]. The flowers are small and they carry red buds and globular shaped fruits that happen to be bees' favorite [10].

To date, there is few preservative action done to protect this plant from the rapid development of wild land. Hence before it reaches the stage of extinction, a precautionary step can be taken via implementing the callus induction to increase the population of this medicinal plant. This step would avoid the plant from facing extinction overtime. Besides that, this medicinal plant may contain valuable compounds that haven't been identified yet. Hence callusing would allow further research on this plant and identification of those valuable compounds that can later on be used in industries such as pharmaceutical or cosmetics. In addition, research on callus induction will also allow genetic modification of the plant in future. Therefore, the aim this study was to determine the optimum concentration of 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4-D) and 6-benzylaminopurine (BAP) in single or combined exposure on callus induction of *T. paniculatum* from leaf explants.

Prianangkai Karuppiah
INTI International University
Malaysia

Weng Hing Thong
INTI International University
Malaysia

II. Materials and Methods

A. Plant Material

The seeds of *T. paniculatum* which served as the source of explant were collected from Desa Casuarina, Nilai, Negeri Sembilan, Malaysia.

B. Establishment of aseptic culture

The seeds of *T. paniculatum* were sterilized using 75% ethanol for a duration of one minute followed by rinsing three times with sterile deionized water. They were then sterilized using sodium hypochlorite (NaOCl) and Triton X-100 as detergent for 10 minutes. After this step, the seeds were rinsed with sterile deionized water for three times before culturing them onto MS medium. Daily observation was done to obtain the percentage of aseptic and survival of culture for two weeks.

C. Effects of various concentrations of 2,4-D and BAP on callus induction

Leaf segments (5 mm × 5 mm) of *T. paniculatum* were used as the explants in this experiment. The excised leaf explants were placed on Murashige and Skoog (MS) [11] medium which contains different concentrations of 2,4-D (1.0, 2.0, 3.0, 4.0 and 5.0 mg/L) and BAP (0.5, 1.0, 1.5, 2.0 and 2.5 mg/L) via single and combined exposure. The control medium was prepared without any supplementation of PGR. Five explants were cultured in a Petri dish. 3 replicates for each treatment were prepared. The Petri dishes were then covered with its lids and sealed tightly with parafilm. The Petri dishes with the leaf explants were incubated in growth chamber at 25±2C in total darkness. Daily observation of the cultures was done to identify the callus induction day. The concentration at which the callus was being induced, as well as the percentage of callus formed was also observed and recorded for a duration of eight weeks.

containing 1.0 mg/L, 2.0 mg/L, 3.0 mg/L, 4.0 mg/L and 5.0 mg/L of 2,4-D. Same goes to medium containing 0.5 mg/L, 1.0 mg/L 1.5 mg/L 2.0 mg/L and 2.5mg/L of BAP, no callus was observed.

TABLE 1. EFFECT OF DIFFERENT CONCENTRATIONS OF 2,4-D AND BAP ON CALLUS FORMATION OF *T. paniculatum* FROM LEAF EXPLANTS OVER A PERIOD OF EIGHT WEEKS

| Media Combination | | Percentage of callus induction |
|-------------------|------------|--------------------------------|
| 2,4-D (mg/L) | BAP (mg/L) | |
| 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1.0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2.0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3.0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4.0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5.0 | 0 | 0 |
| 0 | 0.5 | 0 |
| 0 | 1.0 | 0 |
| 0 | 1.5 | 0 |
| 0 | 2.0 | 0 |
| 0 | 2.5 | 0 |
| 1.0 | 0.5 | 90 |
| 2.0 | 0.5 | 90 |
| 3.0 | 0.5 | 70 |
| 4.0 | 0.5 | 50 |
| 5.0 | 0.5 | 20 |
| 1.0 | 1.0 | 70 |
| 2.0 | 1.0 | 70 |
| 3.0 | 1.0 | 60 |
| 4.0 | 1.0 | 40 |
| 5.0 | 1.0 | 20 |
| 1.0 | 1.5 | 90 |
| 2.0 | 1.5 | 90 |
| 3.0 | 1.5 | 60 |
| 4.0 | 1.5 | 60 |
| 5.0 | 1.5 | 5 |
| 1.0 | 2.0 | 75 |
| 2.0 | 2.0 | 65 |
| 3.0 | 2.0 | 50 |
| 4.0 | 2.0 | 30 |
| 5.0 | 2.0 | 5 |
| 1.0 | 2.5 | 90 |
| 2.0 | 2.5 | 100 |
| 3.0 | 2.5 | 40 |
| 4.0 | 2.5 | 20 |
| 5.0 | 2.5 | 15 |

III. Results

A. Establishment of aseptic culture

The seeds of *T. paniculatum* were aseptically cultured on MS medium. All the seeds cultured were observed to have germinated. Hence the germination rate of the seeds was 100%. It took two complete weeks for the seeds to start germinating. Moreover, the seed culture also achieved 100% sterility.

B. Effects of various concentrations of 2,4-D and BAP on callus induction

In this study, there was no callus induced in the plates containing MS medium devoid of 2,4-D and BAP but presence of roots and shoots were observed. Referring to Table 1, it was noticed that no callus was observed in plates

Callus induction from leaf explants treated with combined exposure of both 2,4-D and BAP was achieved on day six. Based on Table 1, medium containing 2.0 mg/L of 2,4-D and 2.5 mg/L of BAP induced the highest percentage of callus formation which was 100%. This was followed by 90% percentage callus induction in combined treatment of 1.0 mg/L of 2,4-D and 1.5 mg/L of BAP, 1.0 mg/L of 2,4-D and 2.5 mg/L of BAP, 2.0 mg/L of 2,4-D and 1.5 mg/L BAP, 1.0 mg/L of 2,4-D and 0.5 mg/L of BAP, and 2.0 mg/L of 2,4-D and 0.5 mg/L BAP.

The callus induced under the combined exposure of 1.0 mg/L of 2,4-D and 2.5 mg/L of BAP, and 2.0 mg/L of 2,4-D and 0.5 mg/L of BAP was friable and brown in color. Meanwhile, whitish friable callus were observed in the presence of 2.0 mg/L of 2,4-D and 2.5 mg/L BAP, 2.0 mg/L of 2,4-D and 1.5 mg/L BAP, 1.0 mg/L of 2,4-D and 1.5

mg/L of BAP and 1.0 mg/L of 2,4-D and 0.5 mg/L of BAP in combined treatment. They were all soft and smooth callus with wet looking surface.

The least amount of callus, 5% was produced under the combined treatment of 5.0 mg/L of 2,4-D and 1.5 mg/L of BAP, and 5.0 mg/L of 2,4-D and 2.0 mg/L of BAP. All the leaf segments treated with the presence of 5.0 mg/L of 2,4-D in combination with BAP resulted in low level callus production. Table 1 indicated that the percentage of callus induction reduced as the concentration of 2,4-D increased. Effective callusing was observed in the presence of low level of 2,4-D and medium level of BAP.

IV. Conclusion

Leaf explants treated with 2,4-D and BAP in combined exposure resulted in callus induction. The highest percentage of callus from leaf explants was produced on the medium containing 2.0 mg/L of 2,4-D and 2.5 mg/L of BAP in combined exposure. In short, callus induction of *T. paniculatum* could serve as an alternative regeneration pathway for this important medicinal plant.

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About Author (s):



Prianangkai Karuppiah
Research Assistant
Research focus on plant tissue culture



Weng Hing Thong
Senior Lecturer
Research focus on teaching and learning,
plant biotechnology, effective
microorganisms and mycology.