

EFFECTS OF DIFFERENT PLANT GROWTH REGULATORS ON IN VITRO GROWTH OF *ALOE VERA* L.

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Abstract

An attempt was made to standardize the appropriate concentration of different growth regulators for successful *in vitro* growth of different explants (leaf, node and internode) of *Aloe vera* L. Results demonstrated best *in vitro* growth in leaf explants in MS medium supplemented with BAP (1.0 mg/l) and NAA (1.0 mg/l) at $26 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ with pH 5.70 using agar solidified medium and 16 hrs photoperiod.

Introduction

Aloe is a genus of shrubby, monocotyledonous and perennial plant of Liliaceae which consisted of 15 genera and approximately 600 species of *Aloe* grown around the world and are native to Africa and Spain (Saeed *et al.* 2004). Various species of *Aloe* are cultivated as ornamentals due to their sharp pointed spiny leaves and colorful clusters of yellow or red flowers. Commercially two species are grown now a days, which are *A. barbadensis* Mill., also called *A. vera*, and *A. arborescence* Mill. (Manvitha and Bidya 2014). Aloes were thought to grow only in hot and dry climates, but they actually grow in a variety of climates including desert, grassland, and coastal or even alpine locations (Steenkamp and Stewart 2007). Research on the properties of *Aloe* has expanded in scope during the last three decades and the production or transformation of value-added compounds, which are medicinally important, still needs to be explored (Badar *et al.* 2013).

Plant tissue culture offers advantages over traditional methods of propagation, including true to plant types regenerating the plant which has been genetically modified, etc. (Sharifkhani *et al.* 2011). Meyer and Staden (1991) expressed axillary shoot formation using only IBA, whereas shoot formation was also observed on medium containing 2, 4-D and Kn (Natali *et al.* 1990, Roy and Sarkar 1991). Richwine *et al.* 1995 reported the shoots induction using zeatin.

In vitro growth of *A. vera* explants was established using different PGRs on MS medium. Leaf explants showed better results by using BAP (1.0 mg/l) and NAA (1.0 mg/l) under 16 hrs photoperiod at 24°C and pH 5.70 using 30 g/l sucrose on an agar solidified medium.

The purpose of this study was to identify the optimum conditions and proper concentration of different PGRs for *in vitro* growth of *A. vera*. The above mentioned work may help to improve the plant tissue culture of *A. vera* on a large scale.

Materials and Methods

Young axillary leaves (2.0 - 3.0 cm) of *Aloe vera* L. were collected from Lahore College for Women University (LCWU) as an explant. The explants were carefully separated and their surface was sterilized by immersing them in 0.12% HgCl_2 for a few minutes. Then this was followed by 3 - 4 times washing with sterile autoclaved distilled water to remove the traces of HgCl_2 . The sterilized explants were transferred to MS basal medium for the establishment of *A. vera* cultures.

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Stock solution for culture medium consisting of different chemicals such as growth regulators, inorganic salts and vitamins was prepared in double distilled water. The stock solutions were then stored in amber colored bottles at 4°C.

MS (Murashige and Skoog basal agar media (1962), supplemented with different concentrations and combinations of PGRs were used for initiation of callus. The pH of the medium was adjusted at 5.7 and the medium was gelled with 8.0 mg/l (w/v) agar. The sterilization of the medium was performed by autoclaving at 121°C for 15 min under 15 psi pressure.

The cultured explants were observed after inoculation and the data were recorded. The results were analyzed by DMRT at 1% level of significance as described by Steel *et al.* (1997).

Results and Discussion

Effects of different explants i.e. leaf internode and node on MS medium supplemented with different concentrations PGRs were investigated. It was observed that leaf explants proved to be the best for *in vitro* growth of *A. vera* L. (Table 1 and Fig. 1). The leaf explants showed maximum i.e. (96%) *in vitro* growth on MS basal medium supplemented with BAP (1.0 mg/l) and NAA (1.0 mg/l) (Fig. 2). Different physical conditions were adjusted i.e. $24 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$, 3% sucrose, pH 5.7 and 16 hrs of photoperiod, respectively. Although comparatively lesser callus (90%) was formed with BAP (3.0 mg/l) in MS medium using leaf explants under the same above mentioned physical conditions.



Fig. 1. Regeneration of leaf explant of *Aloe vera* in MS basal medium supplemented with BAP (1.0 mg/l) and NAA (1 mg/l) after 45 days of inoculation.

During the present work, *A. vera* L. showed maximum (96%) callus formation using the leaf explants in NAA (1 mg/l) combined with BAP (1 mg/l) on MS. Hashemabadi and Kaviani (2008) investigated on the rapid micro-propagation of *A. vera* and mentioned that best proliferation of shoot per explants (9.67) was obtained on the medium supplemented with 0.5 mg/l BAP + 0.5 mg/l NAA. The effect of different concentrations of BAP on different explants was also recorded. Leaf explants gave maximum percentage (90%) of callus formation with BAP (3.0 mg/l). Michael

and Horiuchi (2006) mentioned that *in vitro* micropropagated plantlets were regenerated in medium with 2.2 mg/l BAP. Similar result was reported by Oliveira and Crocomo (2009). In the present work, different concentrations of NAA were used to observe their effect on *A. vera* explants and maximum growth rate was found to be 78%, using leaf explants with NAA (1.5 mg/l). Patel and Sail (2012) showed the best callus formation of *Aloe vera* on medium containing NAA 0.1 mg/l and Abrie and Staden (2001) also mentioned micropropagation of *Aloe* on medium containing 1.0 mg/l NAA.

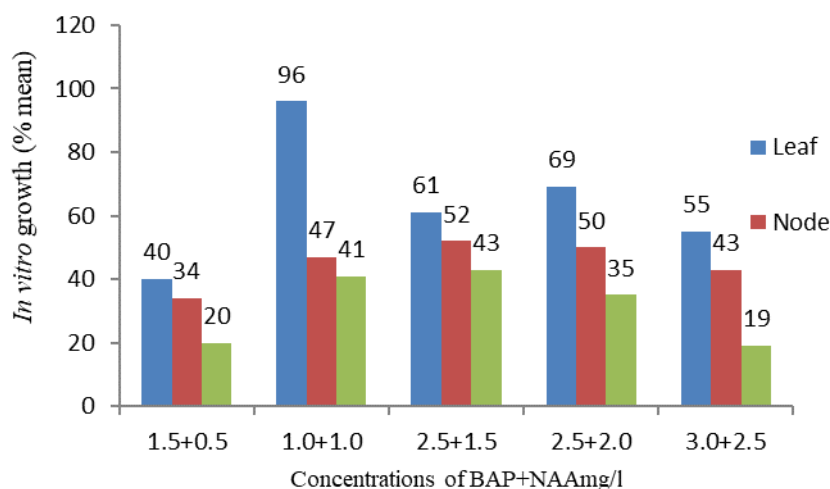


Fig. 2. Effect of different concentrations of BAP and NAA in MS basal medium on *in vitro* growth of *Aloe vera* using different explants.

Table 1. Effect of different PGRs in MS medium on *in vitro* growth of *A. vera* using leaf explants.

| Serial No. | Explant used | PGRs (mg/l) | Callusing (% mean) | Texture of callus | Color of callus |
|------------|--------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1. | Leaf | BAP (3.0) | 90 ± 1.58 ^a | Compact | Yellowish white |
| 2. | " | NAA (1.5) | 78 ± 1.63 ^a | " | White |
| 3. | " | 2,4-D (3.0) | 80 ± 0.34 ^a | " | " |
| 4. | " | BAP + NAA (1.0 + 1.0) | 96 ± 1.29 ^a | " | Whitish |
| 5. | " | BAP + 2,4-D (1.0 + 0.5) | 79 ± 1.09 ^a | " | White |

The mean with different letter in each column is significantly different according to DMRT (0.05 p value) ± = Standard error.

The data obtained showing the effect of different PGRs were used for *in vitro* growth of *A. vera* L. The results suggested that the concentration and combination of the PGRs definitely affected the growth of the plants.

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