



In vitro plantlet regeneration from tendrill explants of spine gourd (*Momordica dioica* Roxb. ex. wild)

KEYWORDS

Maturation, embryogenic callus, in vitro propagation, L-glutamic acid.

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ABSTRACT

The effect of amino acids in combination with cytokinin was observed for the maturation and regeneration of embryogenic callus in spine gourd. Highest percentage (80%) embryogenic callus was obtained on MS medium fortified with 2.0 mg/L each of 2, 4-D and BAP in tendrill explants. Maximum numbers of shoots (8 shoots/ embryogenic calli) were observed on MS medium supplemented with 4.0 mg/L BAP in combination with 2.0 mg/L L-glutamic acid from embryogenic calli derived from tendrill explants. Addition of the amino acid L-glutamic acid provides plant cells with an immediately available source of nitrogen, which generally can be taken up by the cultured cells more rapidly than inorganic nitrogen. All shoots were rooted on MS medium augmented with IBA (3.0 mg/L). The regenerated plantlets were acclimatized in plastic pots and transferred to field condition with 70% survivability.

Introduction:

Momordica dioica Roxb. is commonly known as 'spine gourd'. It is a perennial, rhizomatus, dioecious, climbing creeper belongs to cucurbitaceae family. It was originated in Indo Malayan region (De Wilde and Duyfjes, 2002; Joseph John and Antony, 2007) and it was spread over to India, China, Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Pakistan and Sri Lanka (Trivedi and Roy, 1972). Spine gourd had different vernacular names family Viz; Kartloi in bengali, akakara in telugu, kakor and parora in hindi and aegarvalli in tamil (Bhavana et al., 2010). High nutritional value and good taste the young fruits are used as vegetable in India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. Apart from that every part of spine gourd had medicinal properties to cure various diseases and disorder of human being. Viz; the leaves are used as an aphrodisiac, to remove intestinal parasites, treatment of fever, asthma and piles. The roots (paste) of female plant were used to heal bleeding piles and also used for the treatment of kidney stones, jaundice, ulcers. The fruit is considered pungent, bitter, hot, alexiteric, stomachic and luxative and plays a role in cures for biliousness, asthma, leprosy, bronchitis, fever, tumors, urinary discharges, excessive salivation, and heart disease, Juice of the fruit is a domestic remedy for inflammation (Kumar and Prajapati, 2003). The dried fruits are powdered and used to induce sneezing, leading to nasal clearing. Ethanol extracts of fruits are used to protect and heal the kidneys (Jain and Singhai, 2009). Spine gourd is effective against acute renal failure (Jain and Singhai, 2009). Ethanol and aqueous extracts of spine gourd had antioxidant and hepato-protective activity (Jain et al., 2008). Because of its dioecious nature and vegetative mode of propagation and long period of seed dormancy and low percentage of germination, this vegetable plant cultivation was commercially not developed (Ali et al., 1991). Although the conventional methods for spine gourd cultivation had several limitations for large scale propagation. Here we first time reported plantlet regeneration from tendrill explants of spine gourd in this study, which is really a boost for the in vitro propagation of plantlets from a simple explants without much somaclonal variations.

Material and methods:

Young tendrill explants were collected from spine gourd plants during rainy season which were grown in research field in the Department of Botany, Kakatiya University. These tendrill explants were washed thoroughly under running tap water for few minutes and surface sterilized with

0.1% mercuric chloride for 5 to 6 minutes, then rinsed 4 to 5 times with sterilized distilled water. These sterilized tendrill explants were inoculated on MS medium fortified with 2, 4-D (0.5 to 3.0 mg/L) alone and in combination with BAP (0.5 to 3.0 mg/L). These cultures were maintained at 25 ± 2° C temperature and 2000 lux light intensity with a photo period of 16 hours. After 4 weeks the embryogenic callus was developed from the explant. These embryogenic calli were subcultured on MS medium supplemented with BAP (1.0 to 5.0 mg/L) alone and in combination with L-glutamic acid (2.0 mg/L). After 4 weeks of culture the *in vitro* regenerated shoots were transferred to half strength MS medium fortified with 3.0 mg/L IBA for rooting. After 4 weeks of culture the regenerated plantlets were acclimatized and transferred to field.

Results:

The tendrill explants were inoculated on MS medium with various concentrations of 2, 4-D (0.5 to 3.0 mg/L) alone and in combination with BAP (0.5 to 3.0 mg/L). Maximum amount of embryogenic callus with a mean fresh weight (1.64 ± 0.03) was observed on MS medium fortified with 2.0 mg/L 2, 4-D and 2.0 mg/L BAP (Table:1, fig. a & b). These embryogenic calli were subcultured on MS medium with different concentrations of BAP (1.0 to 5.0 mg/L) in combination with L-glutamic acid (1.0 to 5.0 mg/L). Maximum mean numbers of shoots (8.62 ± 0.94) with a mean length of shoot (1.95 ± 0.15) was observed on MS medium supplemented with 4.0 mg/L BAP in combination with 2.0 mg/L L-glutamic acid. After 4 weeks of subculture the plantlets were transferred to rooting medium. Maximum numbers of roots (30) were developed on MS medium supplemented with 3.0 mg/L IBA. After 4 weeks the regenerated plantlets were acclimatized and transferred to field conditions.

Discussion:

The regenerated calli was obtained from tendrill explants in spine gourd on MS medium fortified with equal amount of (2.0 mg/L) of auxin (2, 4-D) and cytokinin (BAP). Similar kind of results also observed in leaf explants of *M. dioica* (Devendra et al., 2009; Thiruvengadam et al., 2011 and Mustafa et al., 2013), petiole explants of *M. dioica* (Thiruvengadam et al., 2012), leaf and root explant of *Momordica charantia* (Munsur et al., 2007), leaf and stem explants of *M. charantia* (Saima et al., 2007).

Highest number of shoots (8) were observed on MS medium

fortified with BAP (4.0 mg/L) in combination with L-glutamic acid (2.0 mg/L). Similar results were observed in intermodal explants of *Momordica charantia* (Thiruvengadam et al., 2012), in leaf explants of *Cucumis anguria* L. (Thiruvengadam et al., 2013), in cotyledon explants of *Cucumis sativus* L. (Selavaraj et al., 2007) in leaf and petiole explants of *Melothria maderaspatana* (Baskeran et al., 2009).

Conclusion:

The present study reports that embryogenic callus was obtained on MS medium fortified with auxin (2, 4-D) in combination with cytokinin (BAP) in equal volumes. Here cytokinin influencing the formation of green spots in the callus. Although cultured cells are normally capable of synthesizing all of the required amino acids, the addition of certain amino acids (L-glutamic acid) provides cultured plant cells with an immediately available source of nitrogen, which generally can be taken up by the cells more rapidly than inorganic nitrogen.

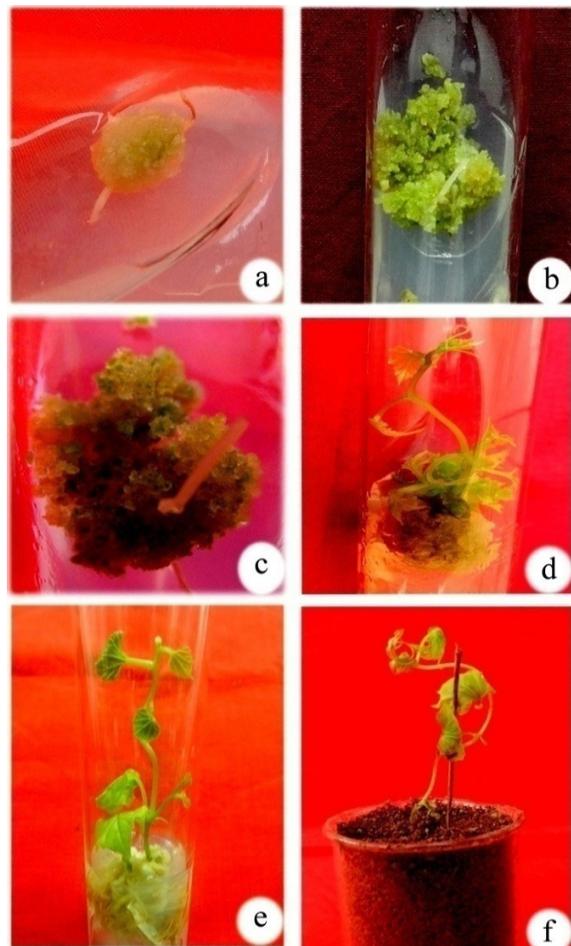


Fig: In vitro plantlet regeneration from tendril explants of spine gourd (*Momordica dioica* Roxb. ex. Wild)

a & b) Induction of callus on MS +2.0 mg/L 2,4-D +2.0 mg/L BAP

c) Subculture of tendril derived callus on MS + 4.0 mg/L BAP + 2.0 mg/L L-glutamic acid

d) Regeneration of plantlets on MS + 4.0mg/l BAP + 2.0 mg/l L-glutamic acid

e) Rooting of plantlets on MS ½ strength + 3.0mg/l IBA.

f) Hardening of plantlets of *Momordica dioica* Roxb.

Table 1: In vitro callus induction in tendril explants on MS medium supplemented with different

concentrations of 2, 4 – D (0.5 – 2.5 mg/L) , NAA (0.5 – 2.5 mg/L) and IAA (0.5 –2.5 mg/L) either alone or in combination BAP (0.5 – 2.5 mg/L) in *M. dioica* Roxb. after 4 weeks of culture.

Ms medium with plant growth regulators (mg/L)		% explants responded	Weight of callus (g) (Mean±S.E)	Nature of callus
2, 4-D	BAP			
0.5	--	25	0.17 ± 0.08	Soft white
1	--	37	0.45 ± 0.05	Soft white
1.5	--	44	1.13 ± 0.06	Soft white
2	--	75	1.30 ± 0.03	Soft white
2.5	--	50	1.00 ± 0.04	Soft white
0.5	0.5	43	0.34 ± 0.06	Soft green
1	1	55	0.65 ± 0.04	Soft green
1.5	1.5	78	1.32 ± 0.05	Friable green
2	2	85	1.64 ± 0.03	Friable green
2.5	2.5	85	1.38 ± 0.02	Friable green

Data represents average of three replicates; each replicate consists of 15 cultures.

Table:2 In vitro shoot regeneration via indirect organogenesis in tendril calli cultured on MS + BAP (1.0 – 5.0 mg/L), TDZ (0.5 - 2.5 mg/L) and Kn (1.0 – 5.0 mg/L) in combination with L- glutamic acid (2.0 mg/L) in *M. dioica* Roxb., after 4 weeks of culture.

MS medium with Plant growth regulators (mg/L)		Tendril derived calli	
BAP	L-glutamic acid	No. of shoots/explant (Mean±S.E)	Shoot length (cm) (Mean±S.E)
1.0	---	2.18±0.08	3.25±0.98
2.0	---	4.32±0.06	2.80±0.96
3.0	---	5.64±0.04	2.50±0.68
4.0	---	6.25±0.02	1.50±0.88
5.0	---	4.98±0.05	1.85±0.78
1.0	2.0	2.75±0.82	2.35±0.69
2.0	2.0	5.96±0.25	2.12±0.16
3.0	2.0	6.75±0.02	1.50±0.88
4.0	2.0	8.62±0.94	1.95±0.85
5.0	2.0	5.25±0.98	1.84±0.74

Data represents average of three replicates; each replicate consists of 15 cultures.

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