

## Effect of Light Quality, Sucrose and Trehalose on *In Vitro* Organogenesis of *Cymbidium devonianum* (Lindl.)

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### Abstract

The present study investigated the effect of sucrose, trehalose and combination of sucrose and trehalose with modified MS medium on *in vitro* regulation of protocorm-like bodies (PLBs) of *Cymbidium devonianum* under different quality of lights (white fluorescent tube, green, red and blue LED). As a result of this study, new PLB and shoots were successfully regenerated on modified MS medium under different quality of lights. The highest PLB formation rate (100%) and the highest shoot formation rate (85%) were observed amongst explants cultured on medium supplemented with 10 g/l sucrose + 10 g/l trehalose under green LED. The maximum fresh weight of PLBs, the highest average number of PLBs and shoots were recorded on medium containing 10 g/l sucrose + 10 g/l trehalose under green LED. For plant tissue culture, sucrose is considered an indisputably important carbon and energy source and biosynthesis of trehalose is similar to that of sucrose. The hereby study concluded that the contribution of LED lights, sucrose and trehalose (combined) can induce PLB and shoot formation of *Cymbidium devonianum* tissue culture without the use of any other plant growth regulator, whereas the green light showed the best formation rate compare with the other studied qualities of lights.

**Keywords:** energy efficient light source, LED, organogenesis, PLBs, tissue culture

### Introduction

Orchids belong to the family Orchidaceae and are one of the largest and most evolved flowering plants. *Cymbidium devonianum* (Lindl.) is an epiphytic orchid, relatively rare and considered a threatened orchid species (Das *et al.*, 2011). This species is used in the breeding programs of many miniature hybrids. The growers greatly recognize this promiscuity because it allows them to endlessly produce new combinations of colour and pattern.

*In vitro* micropropagation techniques are useful for the propagation and maintenance of large numbers of threatened plant species (Dhar *et al.*, 2000). Moreover, *Cymbidium* is rapidly turning into a model orchid, if not a model plant, at least for *in vitro* studies, due to the fine scale nature of experiments conducted on this genus (Teixeira da Silva, 2014). Hence, an effective strategy becomes essential to salvage and multiply this species.

Plants are able to modify their growth, development and physiology according to a variable environment. Light is one of the most important abiotic factors that influences the successful establishment and subsequent development of a

plant culture. Recently, light-emitting diodes (LED) have been developed for accelerating plantlet growth. LEDs can play a variety of roles in horticultural lighting. They are particularly well suited for research applications (e.g., in growth chambers) as a result of their unique capabilities and lend themselves well to shelf lighting for tissue culture applications as a result of their low profile and low radiant heat output (Bula *et al.*, 1991; Barta *et al.*, 1992; Morrow, 2008). The effects of LEDs on plantlets cultured *in vitro* were reported in many plants such as potato (Miyashita *et al.*, 1995), *Cymbidium* (Tanaka *et al.*, 1998; Nahar *et al.*, 2012, 2013; Kaewjampa and Shimasaki, 2012), *Dendrobium* (Sultana *et al.*, 2014), *Rehmannia glutinosa* (Hahn *et al.*, 2000) and strawberry (Nhut *et al.*, 2003). The reaction to different lighting conditions differs between species and their various growth stages.

Another important component in plant tissue culture media is the carbon source, because they supply energy to the plants, especially when they are not ready to photosynthesize their own food during the early stage of tissue culture (Al-Khateeb, 2008). The growth of the plants is also influenced by the presence of carbon source. Carbon source can be in the form of simple or complex sugars (Akter *et al.*, 2007).

Normally, sucrose is used as the carbon source in plant tissue culture. In the current study, sucrose and trehalose were used as the carbon source within different medium. It is advisable to use organic additives in orchid culture medium as this has been reported to be an easy way to improvise the current plant tissue culture media towards commercial production (Ichihashi and Islam, 1999). Trehalose ( $\alpha$ , $\alpha$ -trehalose or  $\alpha$ -D-glucopyranosyl  $\alpha$ -D-glucopyranoside), considered to be more effective than others such as proline, is a nonreducing disaccharide of glucose that occurs in several organisms such as bacteria, fungi, nematodes and crustaceans (Elbein, 1974). It stabilizes proteins and membranes under stress conditions, especially under desiccation and heat stress, preventing denaturation of proteins and the fusion of membranes (Wingler, 2002). Trehalose also plays a major role in plant carbohydrate metabolism (Eastmond et al., 2003). Very few studies have been done on using trehalose as a substitute for carbon source for the proliferation of PLBs of *Cymbidium* orchid.

The aim of the hereby study was to investigate the effect of the addition of sucrose and trehalose as carbon source on the growth and proliferation of protocorm-like bodies (PLBs) of *Cymbidium devonianum* under different sources of lights.

## Materials and Methods

### Plant material and explants source

Protocorm-like bodies (PLB) of *Cymbidium devonianum* were proliferated in the modified Murashige and Skoog (Shimasaki and Uemoto, 1990) medium by transferring new medium every two months. After excision of PLB (ca. 5 mm in diameter) into pieces, they were used as explants.

### Media and culture conditions

Modified MS medium were used for culture; MS medium with 412.5 mg L<sup>-1</sup> ammonium nitrate, 950 mg L<sup>-1</sup> potassium nitrate, 20 g L<sup>-1</sup> sucrose/20 g L<sup>-1</sup> trehalose/10 g L<sup>-1</sup> sucrose+10 g L<sup>-1</sup> trehalose, and 2 g L<sup>-1</sup> Phytigel (Sigma) were used. The pH of the medium was adjusted to 5.5-5.8 using 0.1 mM 2-(N-morpholino) ethanesulfonic acid sodium salt (MES-Na) before autoclaved at 121 °C for 15 min. Jars of 250 ml (UM culture bottle) with plastic caps were used, each bottle receiving 30 ml of medium. Five explants were cultured in each culture vessel and four culture vessels were used for each treatment.

### Light treatments

The cultures of *in vitro* plantlets were illuminated using different light conditions of photon flux density (PFD) of 50  $\mu\text{mole m}^{-2} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$ . Four sources of light were used: white fluorescent tube (National FL20SS), blue LED (Jefcom, P18W-E1701-B, peak wavelength: 450 nm), red LED (Jefcom, P18W-E1701-R, peak wavelength: 640 nm) and green LED (Jefcom, P18W-E1701-G, peak wavelength: 510 nm). The plantlets were exposed to a 16 h photoperiod for 5/6 weeks.

### Statistical analyses

Experimental data were collected after 5/6 weeks of culture by counting the number of PLB and shoot; percentage of PLB and shoot and the fresh weight of PLB were measured. The data were analysed to a one-way analysis variance (ANOVA) and differences between means were tested using Tukey's honestly significant different test ( $P \leq 0.05$ ).

## Results and Discussion

*In vitro* culture plays important roles in the propagation of plants in large quantities with desired characters, and has also been used as a tool for the conservation and rapid propagation of rare and endangered plants of economic importance (Gupta and Jatothu, 2013).

The illumination system for *in vitro* culture should provide light in the spectral region that is involved in photosynthesis and in the photomorphogenic responses (Bula et al., 1991; Seabrook, 2005). In the recent past, several studies have been conducted on the effect of LED lights on orchid tissue culture using sucrose as a carbon source within *in vitro* medium (Sultana et al., 2014; Nahar et al., 2015; Haque et al., 2016). Nahar et al. (2014) reported that trehalose and hyaluronic acid added with culture medium rapidly increased the formation of PLB, shoot and root of *Cymbidium* spp. under white fluorescent tube.

### *In vitro* culture of PLBs in modified MS medium supplemented with sucrose under different sources of lights

The effects of sucrose with modified MS medium on organogenesis on PLB culture of *C. devonianum* are shown in Table 1. Significant differences on PLB culture of *C. devonianum* under green LED compare with other three sources of lights were observed. A great (100%) PLB formation rate was observed when PLBs were cultured on modified MS medium under green LED and 90% PLB formation rate was observed with the other three different (white fluorescent tube, red LED and blue LED) sources of lights. The highest number of PLBs (15.1 PLBs/explant) and maximum fresh weight 122.3 mg were observed under green LED. The maximum shoot formation 45% and the highest number of shoots (0.5 shoots/ explant) were observed under white fluorescent tube after 6 weeks of culture.

These results were supported with previous data on *C. insigne* (Nahar et al., 2012), whereas the average number of PLBs, maximum formation of PLB and fresh weight of PLBs were higher under green LED, and shoot formation increased under white fluorescent tube. Sultana et al. (2014) reported that blue and red LED plays an important role on organogenesis of *Dendrobium kingianum*, while sucrose was used as a carbon sources with medium.

Table 1. *In vitro* culture of *C. devonianum* PLBs in modified MS medium supplemented with sucrose (20 g L<sup>-1</sup> with modified MS medium) under different sources of lights

| Light sources | PLBs         |          | Shoot        |          | Fresh weight   |
|---------------|--------------|----------|--------------|----------|----------------|
|               | No./Explants | Rate (%) | No./Explants | Rate (%) |                |
| White F. Tube | 5.6 ± 0.7c   | 90       | 0.5 ± 0.2a   | 45       | 27.3 ± 2.9c    |
| Green LED     | 15.1 ± 2.1a  | 100      | 0.2 ± 0.2a   | 20       | 122.3 ± 11.2a  |
| Red LED       | 13.4 ± 2.0ab | 90       | 0.4 ± 0.2a   | 30       | 110.1 ± 18.1ab |
| Blue LED      | 7.9 ± 1.7bc  | 90       | 0.3 ± 0.2a   | 15       | 53.7 ± 8.1c    |

Value represents means ± SE (n=20) followed by the different letters which show significant differences by Tukey HSD test ( $P \leq 0.05$ ); White F. Tube = White fluorescent tube

*In vitro culture of PLBs in modified MS medium supplemented with trehalose under different sources of lights*

The effects of trehalose with modified MS medium on organogenesis on PLB culture of *C. devonianum* are shown in Table 2. A great (100%) PLB formation rate was observed when PLBs were cultured on modified MS medium under green LED and red LED and 90% PLBs formation rate was observed under white fluorescent tube and blue LED. Significant differences were observed under green and red LED. The highest number of PLBs (18.1 PLBs/explant) was observed when PLBs were cultured under red LED and medium contain 20 g/l trehalose. The maximum fresh weight 150.8 mg and the maximum shoot formation rate 30% were observed under green LED after 6 weeks of culture. The maximum numbers of shoot (0.3 shoots/ explant) were recorded when PLBs were cultured under green and red LED.

In plant tissue culture, sucrose is considered for being an indisputably important carbon and energy source because sucrose is the most common carbohydrate in phloem sap and is involved in controlling developmental processes (Gibson, 2000). In spite of the fact that the biosynthesis of trehalose is similar to that of sucrose, its evolutionary origin is probably more ancient because it is present in all kingdoms (Elbein, 1974). With trehalose added with modified MS medium, *Cymbidium dayanum* 53% PLB formation, 47% shoot formation and 40% root formation were observed within 3 weeks of culture under white fluorescent tube (Nahar et al., 2014). This study results revealed that trehalose with medium induced 100% PLB formation under green and red LED within 6 weeks of culture.

*In vitro culture of PLBs in modified MS medium supplemented with sucrose + trehalose under different sources of lights*

The combination effects of sucrose and trehalose with modified MS medium on organogenesis on PLBs culture of *C. devonianum* were shown in Table 3. A large (100%) PLB formation rate was observed when PLBs were cultured on modified MS medium under white fluorescent tube and

green LED and 85% shoot formation rate and 65% root formation rate was observed under green LED within 5 weeks of culture. PLBs of *C. devonianum* were significantly increased under green LED. The highest number of PLBs (7.6 PLBs/explant), highest number of shoots (1.1 shoots/explant) and highest number of roots (0.7 roots/explant) were observed under green LED. The maximum fresh weight (113.5 mg) was observed under green LED after 5 weeks of culture.

Sucrose syntheses activity has been shown to play a major role in energy metabolism, controlling the mobilization of sucrose into various pathways important for the metabolic, structural and storage functions of the plant cell (Hesse and Willmitzer, 1996; Tang et al., 1999). Trehalose, a non-reducing disaccharide, is found in some organisms including a number of plants in which it serves as an osmoprotectant. It stabilizes proteins and biological membranes under a variety of stress conditions including hydrostatic pressure and osmotic stress (Benaroudi et al., 2001). Other proposed roles of trehalose include regulation of carbohydrate utilization, plant growth and development (Schluepmann et al., 2004).

In *Phalaenopsis*, blue LEDs proved to be effective for PLB formation from cultured PLB segments (Tanaka et al., 2001). Huan and Tanaka (2004) reported that red LEDs were the most effective light source for inducing callus tissue from PLB. In particular, red and blue lights, either alone or in combination, have a significant influence on plant growth. Folta and Maruhnich (2007) suggested that green light has discrete effects on plant biology, and the mechanisms that sense this light quality are now being elucidated. Generally, the effects of green light are in opposition with those directed by red and blue wavebands. Green light is efficiently transmitted through the plant body, playing more of a role in photosynthesis than red or blue in some contexts (Sun et al., 1998), suggesting green light may prove useful as a signal to tissues not directly exposed to the light environment. Potential green light effects may also vary with developmental context. According to the present study, when sucrose and trehalose were both added with medium, maximum PLB, shoot and root formation occurred within 5 weeks of culture

Table 2. *In vitro* culture of *C. devonianum* PLBs in modified MS medium supplemented with trehalose (20 g L<sup>-1</sup> with modified MS medium) under different sources of lights

| Light sources | PLBs         |          | Shoot        |          | Fresh weight   |
|---------------|--------------|----------|--------------|----------|----------------|
|               | No./Explants | Rate (%) | No./Explants | Rate (%) |                |
| White F. Tube | 4.9 ± 0.9c   | 90       | 0.2 ± 0.2a   | 10       | 24.5 ± 4.6c    |
| Green LED     | 11.7 ± 1.8a  | 100      | 0.3 ± 0.2a   | 30       | 150.8 ± 47.3a  |
| Red LED       | 18.1 ± 1.4b  | 100      | 0.3 ± 0.2a   | 25       | 124.1 ± 11.6ab |
| Blue LED      | 4.1 ± 0.4c   | 90       | 0.2 ± 0.2a   | 15       | 29.9 ± 3.2c    |

Value represents means ± SE (n=20) followed by the different letters which show significant differences by Tukey HSD test (P ≤ 0.05); White F. Tube = White fluorescent tube

Table 3. *In vitro* culture of *C. devonianum* PLBs in modified MS medium supplemented with sucrose and trehalose (10 g L<sup>-1</sup> + 10 g L<sup>-1</sup> with modified MS medium) under different sources of lights

| Light sources | PLBs         |          | Shoot        |        | Root         |          | Fresh weight |
|---------------|--------------|----------|--------------|--------|--------------|----------|--------------|
|               | No./Explants | Rate (%) | No./Explants | Weight | No./Explants | Rate (%) |              |
| White F. Tube | 7.4 ± 0.8b   | 100      | 0.7 ± 0.2b   | 60     | 0.4 ± 0.2    | 40       | 44.6 c       |
| Green LED     | 7.6 ± 0.9a   | 100      | 1.1 ± 0.1a   | 85     | 0.7 ± 0.2    | 65       | 113.5a       |
| Red LED       | 6.8 ± 1.3bc  | 85       | 0.7 ± 0.2bc  | 45     | 0.4 ± 0.2    | 40       | 85.7 abc     |
| Blue LED      | 4.9 ± 0.6bc  | 90       | 0.6 ± 0.1bc  | 60     | 0.2 ± 0.2    | 15       | 43.7 bc      |

Value represents means ± SE (n=20) followed by the different letters which show significant differences by Tukey HSD test (P ≤ 0.05); White F. Tube = White fluorescent tube

under green LED, while individual addition of sucrose and trehalose had no root formation within 6 weeks of culture. Formation of multiple shoots and roots from protocorm-like bodies (PLBs) are very common co-sequential phenomenon *in vitro*. The subsequent growth and effective shoot and root development on suitable medium play a vital role in orchid production.

## Conclusions

From all the four sources of lights, green LED promoted the maximum proliferation of PLB and shoot of *Cymbidium devonianum in vitro* and the contribution of LED lights, sucrose and trehalose can induced PLB and shoot formation of *Cymbidium devonianum* tissue culture without the use of any plant growth regulator. It was highlighted that combination of sucrose and trehalose induced PLB, shoot and root formation within a short duration of culture period, comparatively with individual addition of sucrose and trehalose with the medium.

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