

In Vitro rapid propagation of an aquatic plant *Pogostemon erectus* (Dalzell) Kuntze

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Received : 05.07.2018
Accepted : 18.09.2018
Online : 02.12.2018

Sucul bir bitki olan *Pogostemon erectus* (Dalzell) Kuntze'un In Vitro hızlı çoğaltımı

Abstract: The aim of this study is to investigate the multiple and rapid production of *Pogostemon erectus* (Dalzell) Kuntze by tissue culture techniques. The shoot tip and nodal explants of *P. erectus* were isolated and then cultured in Murashige and Skoog (1962) (MS) nutrient media containing thidiazuron (TDZ) and 2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4-D) in different combinations. The first shoot formation on the explants was observed on day 15. The number of shoots per explant ranged from 2.85 to 29.39 in the shoot tip explants and from 2.72 to 32.24 in the nodal explants. The maximum number of shoots per explant was obtained in the MS medium containing 0.20 mg/L TDZ + 0.10 mg/L 2,4-D for shoot tip explant (29.39) and in the MS medium containing 0.10 mg/L TDZ + 0.10 mg/L 2,4-D for nodal explant (32.24). The longest shoots in the shoot tip (1.76 cm) and nodal (1.64 cm) explants were determined in MS medium supplemented with 0.10 mg/L TDZ + 0.10 mg/L 2,4-D. Regenerated shoots were rooted in MS medium supplemented with 0.25 mg/L indol-3yl acetic acid (IAA), and then acclimatized to aquarium conditions.

Key words: In vitro, *Pogostemon erectus*, Shoot regeneration, TDZ, Tissue culture

Özet: Bu çalışmanın amacı, *Pogostemon erectus* (Dalzell) Kuntze'un doku kültürü teknikleri ile çoklu ve hızlı üretimini araştırmaktır. *P. erectus*'un sürgün ucu ve nodal eksplantları izole edilmiş ve daha sonra farklı kombinasyonlarda thidiazuron (TDZ) ve 2,4-Diklorofenoksiasetik asit (2,4-D) içeren Murashige ve Skoog (1962) (MS) besin ortamında kültüre alınmıştır. Eksplantlardaki ilk sürgün oluşumu 15. günde gözlenmiştir. Eksplant başına sürgün sayısı, sürgün ucu eksplantlarında 2.85 ila 29.39 ve nodal eksplantlarında 2.72 ila 32.24 arasında sıralanmıştır. Eksplant başına maksimum sürgün sayısı sürgün ucu eksplantı için (29.39) 0.20 mg/L TDZ + 0.10 mg/L 2,4-D içeren MS ortamında ve nodal eksplant için 0.10 mg/L TDZ + 0.10 mg/L 2,4-D içeren MS ortamında (32.24) elde edilmiştir. En uzun sürgünler, sürgün ucu (1.76 cm) ve nodal (1.64 cm) eksplantlarında 0.10 mg/L TDZ + 0.10 mg/L 2,4-D ile desteklenmiş MS ortamında belirlenmiştir. Rejenere sürgünler, 0.25 mg/L Indol-3-asetik asit (IAA) ile takviye edilmiş MS ortamında köklendirilmiş ve ardından akvaryum koşullarına alıştırmıştır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: In vitro, *Pogostemon erectus*, Sürgün rejenerasyonu, TDZ, Doku kültürü

1. Introduction

Plant tissue culture is defined as the growth of plant parts isolated from the main plant in an artificial nutrient medium under sterile conditions. This technique is mainly due to the totipotency of the plant cell. Totipotency is the ability of a single cell to generate whole genome with cell divisions (Neumann et al., 2009; Hussain et al., 2012).

The plant tissue culture medium should contain all the nutrients needed to grow a plant normally. This nutrient medium is mainly; macronutrients, micronutrients, vitamins, other organic components, plant growth regulators, carbon source and some gelling agents (Murashige and Skoog, 1962). Murashige and Skoog (MS) nutrient media are the most used nutrient medium for in vitro production of many plant species. Similarly, *Lachenalia viridiflora* (Kumar et al., 2016), *Rotula rotundifolia* (Buch-Ham. ex Roxb) Koehne (Dogan, 2017a), *Urginea altissima* (L.f.) Baker (Baskaran et al., 2017), *Ceratophyllum demersum* L. (Emsen and Dogan, 2018), *Brassica napus* L. (Nazi et al., 2018), *Ophiorrhiza mungos* L. var. *angustifolia* (Thw.) Hook. f. (Krishnan et al., 2018), *Hybanthus enneaspermus* (L.) F. Muell. (Shekhawat and Manokari, 2018) were propagated using the MS nutrient medium.

The pH of the nutrient medium significantly affects the activities of plant growth regulators and plant growth. For this reason, the pH of the nutrient medium is adjusted between 5.4 and 5.8. In addition, plant parts, plant growth regulators and nitrogen sources in the nutrient media are also very important for shoot regeneration. Auxins, cytokinins and gibberellins are the most commonly used plant growth regulators. The variety and concentration of the plant growth regulator may differ according to the cultivated plant species and explant varieties (Hussain et al., 2012). In addition, the correct selection of explant types (shoot tip, node, internode, etc.) has an important effect on the success of tissue culture (George et al., 2008).

The purpose of this study is to propagate rapid and multiple production of tissue culture techniques of *Pogostemon erectus* (Dalzell) Kuntze. Thus, the shoot tip and nodal explants of *P. erectus* were transferred to culture media containing different thidiazuron (TDZ) and 2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4-D) combinations. The effects of these hormones on in vitro production have been examined.

2. Materials and Method

Pogostemon erectus (Dalzell) Kuntze's surface sterilization has been sterilized according to the procedure previously done by Dogan (2017b). Sterilized shoot tip and nodal explants were cultured in MS (Murashige and Skoog, 1962) basal medium containing vitamins (Table 1) at 24°C for 16 hours in light and 8 hours in dark photoperiod. The shoot tip and nodal explants from 4 week old plants grown in this culture medium were transferred to MS medium supplemented with 0.10 mg/L 2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4-D) and 0.10, 0.20, 0.40 and 0.80 mg/L thidiazuron (TDZ) combinations.

Table 1. The content of Murashige and Skoog (1962) basic nutrient medium

Components		Concentrations (mg/L)
Macroelements	NH ₄ NO ₃	1650.000
	KNO ₃	1900.000
	CaCl ₂ .2H ₂ O	440.000
	MgSO ₄ .7H ₂ O	370.000
	KH ₂ PO ₄	170.000
Microelements	KI	0.830
	H ₃ BO ₃	6.200
	MnSO ₄ .4H ₂ O	22.300
	ZnSO ₄ .7H ₂ O	8.600
	Na ₂ MoO ₄ .2H ₂ O	0.250
	FeSO ₄ .7H ₂ O	27.850
	CoCl ₂ .6H ₂ O	0.025
	CuSO ₄ .5H ₂ O	0.025
	Na ₂ EDTA.2H ₂ O	37.250
Vitamins	Myo-Inositol	100.000
	Nicotinic Acid	0.500
	Pyrotinic Acid	0.500
	Thiamine-HCl	0.100
	Glycine	2.000

MS medium, vitamins, 3% sucrose and 0.65% agar were used in all culture media. Distilled water was used for the preparation of the nutrient medium. The pH of the nutrient medium was adjusted to 5.7±1 using 1N NaOH and 1N HCl, followed by sterilization at 1.2 atmospheres pressure and at 120°C for 20 minutes. In the experiments, the explants were incubated under a white LED (Light-Emitting Diode) light (1500 lux) at a temperature of 24°C and a 16 hour light photoperiod.

Regenerated shoots were transferred in culture medium containing 0.25 mg/L indole-3- acetic acid (IAA) for *in vitro* root formation, and then transferred to the aquarium environment to acclimate to external conditions. The aquarium conditions are set at 24°C temperature and 16 hours lighting. Also liquid fertilizer was added to the aquarium water.

Experiments were carried out in 100x10 mm petri dishes in 3 replicates. The data obtained from the study were analyzed using the SPSS 21 for Windows (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) program. Duncan tests

were applied for Post Hoc tests. Percent values were subjected to arcsin transformation prior to statistical analysis (Snedecor and Cochran, 1967).

3. Results and Discussion

The correct choice of explant variety in tissue culture studies has an important effect on the success of the study. For this reason, researchers have experimented with different explant varieties such as shoot tip (Sasidharan and Jayachitra, 2017; Bourrain, 2018), node (Dobranski et al., 2017; Irshad et al., 2018), internode (Thul and Kukreja, 2010; Zhang et al., 2017), leaf (Mahindrakar et al., 2018) and root (Sharma et al., 2017).

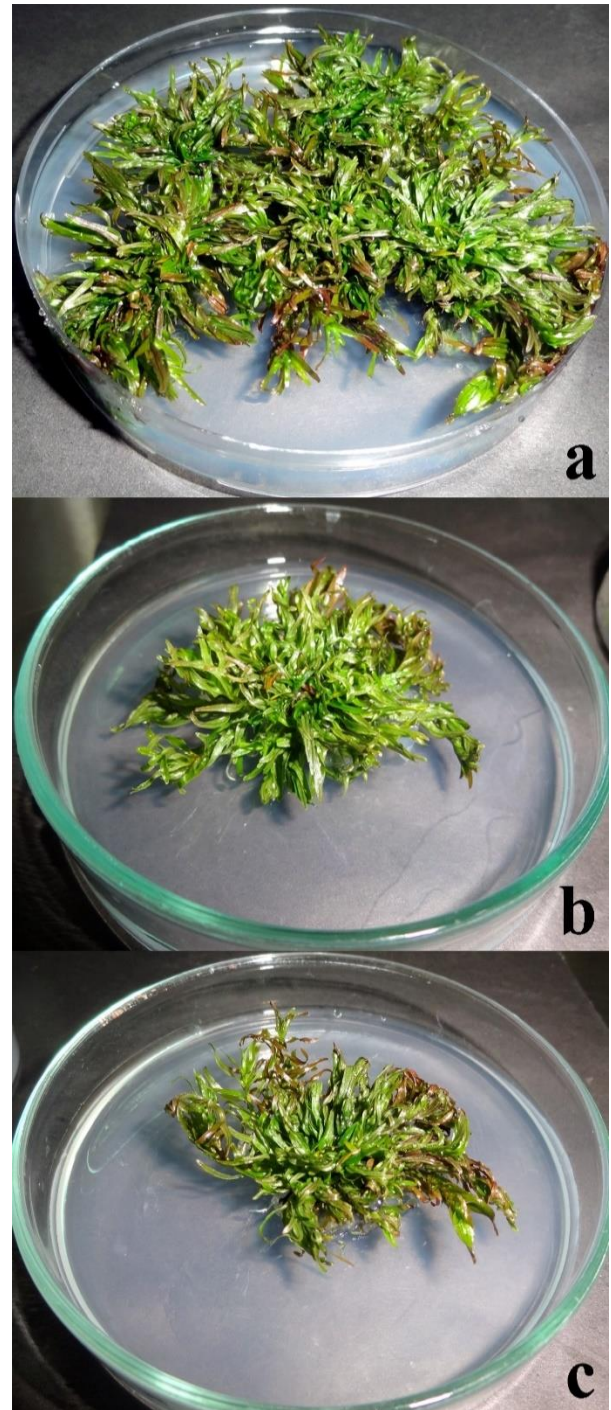


Figure 1. *In vitro* plant regeneration of *P. erectus* (a). Multiple shoot regeneration from shoot tip (a) and nodal (b) explants after 8 weeks of culture

Table 2. Analysis of variance of shoot tip and nodal explants of *P. erectus* in MS medium containing different TDZ and 2,4-D

Source of variance	Degree of freedom	Shoot regeneration frequency (%)		Mean number of shoots per explants		Mean shoot length (cm)	
		Mean square	F value	Mean square	F value	Mean square	F value
Shoot tip							
Medium	4	2518.76	33.99**	356.41	80.92**	0.08	9.28**
Error	10	74.104	-	4.405	-	0.01	-
General Total	14	-	-	-	-	-	-
** Significant at $p < 0.01$ level							
Nodal							
Medium	4	2102.01	28.37**	427.80	70.56**	0.03	18.62**
Error	10	74.10	-	6.06	-	0.002	-
General Total	14	-	-	-	-	-	-
** Significant at $p < 0.01$ level							

In the present study, shoot tip and nodal explants of *P. erectus* were cultured in MS medium containing 0.10-0.80 mg/L TDZ + 0.10 mg/L 2,4-D for rapid and multiple production under *in vitro* conditions. As a control group, these explants were also cultured in hormone-free MS nutrient medium. Similarly, the effect of TDZ hormone on *in vitro* production has been previously reported in plants such as *Aronia mitschurinii* (Mahoney et al., 2018) and *Rauvolfia tetraphylla* (L.) (Hussain et al., 2018).

After 15 days, regenerated shoots began to spread in culture media and multiple shoot formation was observed after four weeks. After eight weeks (Figure 1 a, b, c), the experiment was terminated and variance analysis was applied for percentage of shoot regeneration, number of shoots per explant and length of shoot (Table 2).

As seen in the analysis of variance, the statistically significant differences in the both explant types were found at $p < 0.01$ level for shoot regeneration percentage, number of shoots per explant and shoot length (Table 2). The Duncan test results for determining the significance level of this difference are given in Figure 2.

The percentage of shoot regeneration of the shoot tip and nodal explants ranged from 33.31% to 100.00% and 38.89% to 100.00%, respectively (Figure 2 A and B). 100% shoot regeneration frequency was reached in MS medium containing 0.10, 0.20 and 0.40 mg/L TDZ + 0.10 mg/L 2,4-D in the both explants. The lowest shoot regeneration percentages in culture media containing plant growth regulator were detected in MS medium containing 0.80 mg/L TDZ + 0.10 mg/L 2,4-D. In general, the shoot tip explants had a higher percentage of shoot regeneration than the nodal explants.

The number of shoots per explant ranged from 2.85 to 29.39 in the shoot tip explants (Figure 2 C) and from 2.72 to 32.24 in the nodal explants (Figure 2 D). The maximum number of shoots per explant was obtained in the MS medium containing 0.20 mg/L TDZ + 0.10 mg/L 2,4-D for shoot tip (29.39), in the MS medium containing 0.10 mg/L TDZ + 0.10 mg / L 2,4-D for nodal explant (32.24). In culture media containing hormones, the least number of shoots were recorded in MS medium supplemented with 0.80 mg/L TDZ + 0.10 mg/L 2,4-D in both explant types. The results showed that the increase in TDZ ratio used in

the culture medium decreased shoot numbers from explants. Generally, nodal explants give higher number of shoots than shoot tip explants.

The length of shoots from the explants varied with the effects of growth regulators and statistically significant at $p < 0.05$ level. In the medium containing growth regulators, the longest shoots for shoot tip explant was recorded as 1.76 cm in MS medium supplemented with 0.10 mg/L TDZ + 0.10 mg/L 2,4-D in the shoot explant, followed by in the MS medium supplemented with 0.20 mg/L TDZ + 0.10 mg/L 2,4-D (1.73 cm) (Figure 2 E). Short shoots were obtained in the nodal explant compared to the shoot tip explants. The highest shoot lengths for nodal explant (1.64 cm) were determined in MS medium supplemented with 0.10 mg/L TDZ + 0.10 mg/L 2,4-D, followed by in the MS medium supplemented with 0.20 mg/L TDZ + 0.10 mg/L 2,4-D (1.55 cm) (Figure 2 F).

The high rate of use of TDZ in culture media has adversely affected shoot length. Similar results were observed in *Pyrus pyrifolia* (Kadota and Niimi, 2003), *Vitex trifolia* (Ahmed and Anis, 2012) and *R. tetraphylla* (Hussain et al., 2018) plants, which were left in the TDZ medium for a long time. It has been reported that this inhibitory effect of TDZ is highly cytokine-like activity and may be due to the presence of the phenyl group in TDZ (Huetteman and Preece, 1993).

Regenerated shoots were transferred in culture medium containing 0.25 mg/L IAA for *in vitro* root formation. After four weeks, intense root formation was detected. The rooted plants are then left to aquarium conditions to acclimate to external conditions. Extensions were observed in the plant length and in the leaves after two weeks. At the end of four weeks the plants were successfully adapted to external conditions (100% survival). As the MS basal medium was carefully removed from the plants, no contamination was detected in the aquarium environment. Similarly, the acclimatization of plants propagated *in vitro* to external conditions have been reported in *Alternanthera sessilis* (L.) (Gnanaraj et al., 2011), *R. rotundifolia* (Dogan, 2017), *Pisum sativum* L. (Sharma et al., 2017), *Monochasma savatieri* Franch ex Maxim (Zhang et al., 2017) and *Enicostema axillare* (Sasidharan and Jayachitra, 2017).

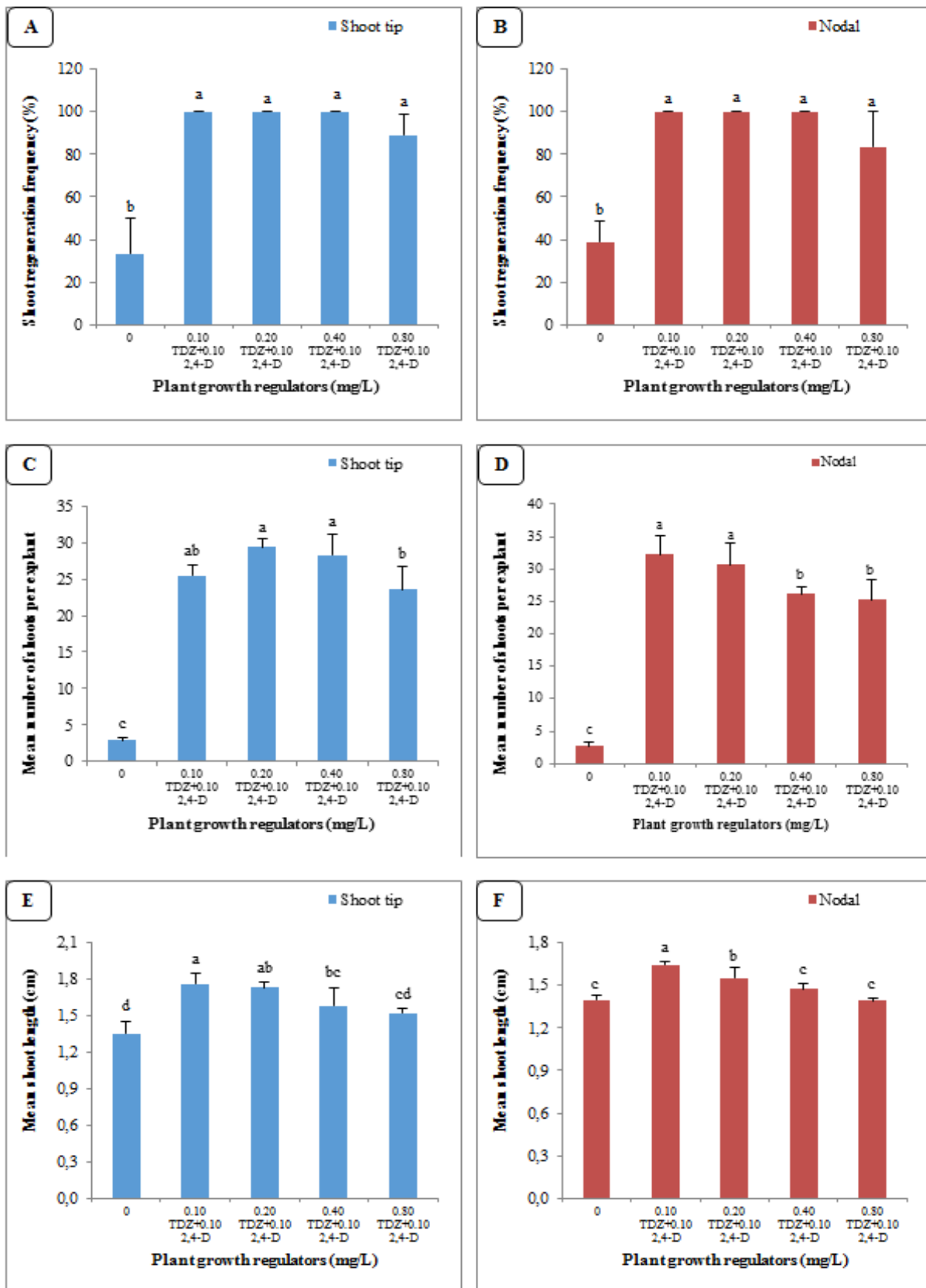


Figure 2. Effect of different combinations of TDZ and 2,4-D on *in vitro* shoot regeneration from shoot tip and nodal explants of *P. erectus* after eight weeks of culture. All values are the means of triplicates \pm SD (n = 3). Vertical bars indicate standard error of three separate experiments. Different letters indicate significantly different values (DMRT, $p < 0.05$)

Consequently, multiple shoot formation from shoot and nodule explants of *P. erectus* was successfully achieved in culture media containing different TDZ and 2,4-D combinations. The best results for the average number of

shoots were found in the lower combinations of TDZ and 2,4-D. This work presents an important protocol for the mass production of this plant. It can also help with gene transfer studies with this plant in the future.

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Cite this article: Dođan M (2019). In Vitro rapid propagation of an aquatic plant *Pogostemon erectus* (Dalzell) Kuntze. Anatolian Journal of Botany 3(1): 1-6.