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De novo organogenesis from leaf explants in *Piper longum* L.

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Abstract

De novo regeneration pathway from leaf callus was established in *Piper longum* L. Within three weeks of culture, leaf explants showed the callogenic response in media supplemented with various concentrations of TDZ. However no callus observed growth regulator free media. The callogenic response found highest (60%) in media supplemented with 0.5 mg l⁻¹ TDZ. However, the per cent callus showing shoot bud (organogenic callus) was maximum (46.0%) in MS media supplemented with 0.25 mg l⁻¹ TDZ which also showed maximum number (eight) of shoot bud per callus clump. These organogenic callus clumps when placed in MS + 1.5 mg l⁻¹ BAP gave average 3-4 elongated shoots in each culture. The *in vitro* raised plants were successfully rooted in MS + 1.0 mg l⁻¹ IBA and rooted shoots were subsequently hardened in Soil: Sand: FYM (1:1:1) with 70% success.

Keywords: *Piper longum*, callus, TDZ, regeneration

Introduction

Long pepper (*Piper longum* L), belonging to family Piperaceae, is one of the valuable medicinal plant. This unisexual perennial is indigenous to the hotter parts of India and found in wild in the Western Ghats (Soniya and Das 2002) [1]. The whole plant part is useful in treating various diseases related to respiratory tracts like asthma and bronchitis. Piperine is the main medicinal active component which has been proved to have several health benefits, especially against chronic diseases, such as reduction of insulin-resistance, anti-inflammatory effects, and improvement of hepatic steatosis (Derosa *et al.* 2016) [2].

The heedless extraction of the plant due to its medicinal importance has declined its population in wild (Nair 2000) [3]. Moreover, poor seed viability and seed set along with low percentage of rooting is major drawback for large-scale propagation of this species. Hence development of alternate regeneration pathway is required urgently in this species (Soniya and Das 2002) [1]. Some reports on micropropagation of *P. longum* is available in literatures (Soniya and Das 2002; Bhat *et al.* 1995; Madhusudhanan and Rahiman 2000; Parida and Dhal 2011; Rani and Dantu 2012) [1, 4-7] however very scanty report on the callus through regeneration pathway (Bhat *et al.* 1992) [8] is available in this species. The present work demonstrates efficient *de novo* regeneration protocol from leaf callus in *P. longum*.

Material and methods

Leaves were isolated from aseptically raised nodal culture and were cultured on full strength MS media supplemented without any cytokinin or supplemented with various concentrations of TDZ (0.25, 0.5, 1.0 and 1.5 mg l⁻¹). Data on number of explants responding for callus induction were recorded after four week of culture. Experiment was repeated five with 10 explants in each treatment. The callus obtained in various media were sub-cultured in same media composition viz., without any cytokinin or supplemented with various concentrations of TDZ (0.25, 0.5, 1.0 and 1.5 mg l⁻¹) for shoot bud induction. Per cent of callus producing shoot bud and average number of shoot bud per callus were recorded after four week of culture. Experiment was repeated five with 10 explants in each treatment. Microshoots (1.5–2.0 cm in length) were excised and transferred to half-strength MS medium supplemented with 1.0 mg l⁻¹ IBA (earlier found effective for rooting of microshoots in same laboratory). The rooted plants were hardened as described above in the section. The rooted plants were removed from the culture bottles, washed free of agar with sterile distilled water and transferred to plastic pots with sterile Soil:Sand:FYM (1:1:1) media. The plantlets were maintained at 70% relative humidity by initially covering with transparent polythene. The plants were kept in 28°C under a 12-h photoperiod for acclimatization. The plants were fertilized with 1/8th MS macro nutrients twice during the course of acclimatization at an interval of 4–5 wk.

The data recorded were analysed for ANOVA (Analysis of Variance) for Completely Randomized Design (CRD). The mean were compared using critical difference at 5% significance level. All contaminated cultures were removed from the initiation experiments, thus limiting the scope of thorough statistical analysis. Wherever necessary, the data transformation (square root or angular) applied before analysis to normalize the data.

Results and discussion

There was no response of callogenesis even after four weeks in growth regulator free media. Even the lower concentration of TDZ induced callus on leaf explants in *P. longum*. The callogenic response found highest (60%) in media supplemented with 0.5 mg l⁻¹ TDZ followed by 1.0 mg l⁻¹ TDZ (54%). However, the per cent callus showing shoot bud (organogenic callus) was maximum (46.0%) in MS media supplemented with 0.25 mg l⁻¹ TDZ which also showed maximum number of shoot buds per callus clump i.e., 8 (Table 1, Fig 1).

Table 1: Effect of different concentrations of TDZ on callus formation response (%), callus showing shoot bud (%) and average number of shoot buds per callus in leaf derived callus of *Piper longum* L. (Data recorded after four weeks of culture)

Treatments (mg/l)	Callogenesis (%)* (##)	Organogenic callus (%)* (##)	Average number of shoot buds per callus* (#)
Control	0.00 (0.52)	0.00 (0.52)	0.00 (0.71)
0.25 TDZ	44.00 (41.52)	46.00 (42.68)	8.00 (2.91)
0.5 TDZ	60.00 (50.80)	39.90 (39.11)	6.20 (2.58)
1.0 TDZ	54.00 (47.29)	25.32 (30.02)	7.60 (2.84)
1.5 TDZ	48.00 (43.83)	21.00 (27.24)	5.00 (2.34)
SEm±	1.33	1.44	0.06
CD at 5%	3.91	4.25	0.18
CV%	8.06	11.54	6.11

*Figures in parentheses are transformed values # square root transformation ## arcsine transformation.

In present study, TDZ found effective for callus induction from leaf explants. Recently, there is an increased use of TDZ *in vitro* propagation of plants including medicinal and horticultural crops (Deepa *et al.* 2018) [9]. TDZ successfully

used for indirect regeneration in various plants (Chen *et al.* 2016; Jose and Thomas 2015; Raghu *et al.* 2011; Sherif *et al.* 2016; Tsai *et al.* 2015; Wei *et al.* 2015) [10-15].

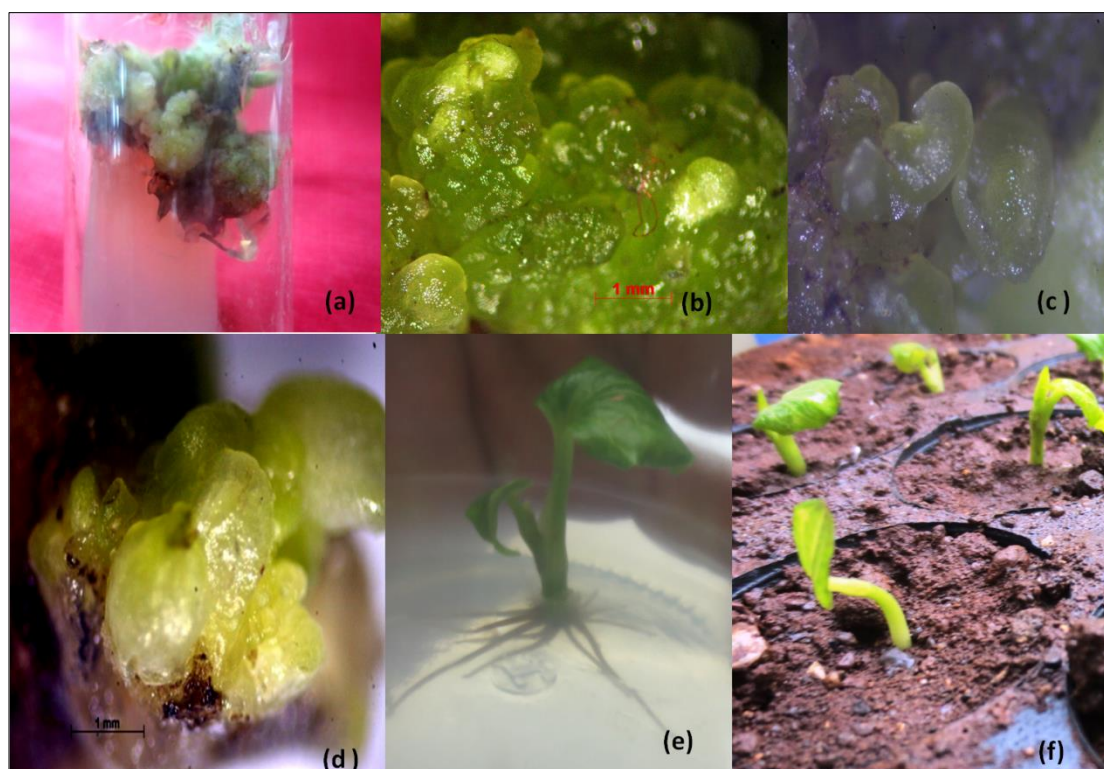


Fig 1: *De novo* organogenesis in *P. longum* a) callus formation from leaf explants b) organogenic callus c) shoot bud formation d) shoot buds elongation e) rooting e) hardening.

These organogenic callus clumps when placed in MS + 1.5 mg l⁻¹ BAP gave average 3-4 elongated shoots in each culture (elongation media established in same laboratory for micropropagation in *P. longum*). These shoots were further rooted in MS + 1.0 mg l⁻¹ IBA and subsequently hardened. Effectiveness of IBA in *in vitro* rooting is already reported in medicinal plants (Jani *et al.* 2015; Jani *et al.* 2015; Nagar *et*

al. 2015) [16-18]. Rooted explants successfully hardened in Soil: Sand: Vermiculite (1:1:1) with 70% success.

Conclusion

Successfully indirect regeneration protocol has been established from leaf explants. The *de novo* regeneration pathway in *P. longum* can be useful for metabolic engineering

and *in vitro* manipulation of piperine through cell culture along with mass propagation for conservation and multiplication of improved planting material.

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