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Effect of GA₃ and Paclobutrazol on adventitious shoot regeneration of two *Pelargonium* sp.



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OBJECTIVES

In this study, we test the effect of gibberellic acid (GA_3) and Paclobutrazol (PBZ) on callus formation and adventitious shoot regeneration on *Pelargonium sp.*, before using this species for functional validation of genes involved in the process of GA regulation *via* genetic transformation.

INTRODUCTION

In vitro plant regeneration efficient methods are essential in biotechnology. Cell dedifferentiation and differentiation are complex phenomena induced in vitro by growth regulators. The effect of auxins and cytokinins are well known whereas the effect of gibberellins (GA) was less studied. However, Hutchinson et al., 1997 showed that GA₃ had an inhibitory effect on development of somatic embryogenesis in Pelargonium x hortorum. Conversely, paclobutrazol (PBZ), a GA biosynthetic inhibitor, promoted development of somatic embryogenesis.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

In a first experiment, adventitious shoot regeneration was performed on *Pelargonium x hortorum* 'Panaché sud' ('P.sud') and *Pelargonium x domesticum* 'Autumn haze' ('P.dom') according to Hassanein and Dorion (2005). First, we evaluated the effect of a range of GA_3 concentrations (1-20 μ M) and PBZ (0.1-1 μ M) on callus induction and bud regeneration. In a second experiment GA_3 and PBZ were added to the regeneration medium (SRM) separately or together to check the relationship between PBZ and GA_3 effects.

First experiment : GA₃ (1, 5, 10 and 20 µM)
PRZ (0.1, 0.25, 0.5, 1 µM)



Leaf discs cultivated en shoot regeneration medium (SRM)



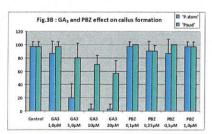
Second experiment : GA_3 10 μ M or PBZ 0.3 μ M GA_3 10 μ M and PBZ 0.3 μ M

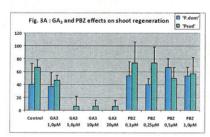
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Shoot regeneration process on SRM. On leaf discs arising from 4-5 weeks-old mother plant and containing petiole umbilicus both genotypes led to highly efficient formation of adventitious shoots (Table 1). 'P.dom' explants produced limited callus in the cut edges of leaf discs, buds were formed quickly and direct secondary organogenesis took place (Fig.1A). Conversely, 'P.sud' explants were totally dedifferentiated in callus which proliferated extensively before bud formation through several subcultures (Fig.2A).

Effect of GA_3 on callus formation and shoot regeneration. In both cases, GA_3 applied alone (Fig.1B, 2B, Table 1), inhibited bud regeneration as soon as $S\mu M$ (Fig.3A). Similarly, the rate of callus formation (Fig.3B) decreased drastically when $S\mu M$ GA_3 was applied to 'P.dom' explants while for 'P.sud', callus decreasing is less evident. Same results were observed by Hutchinson et al (1997), It is likely that GA_3 inhibited the dedifferentiation level since callus is also inhibited.

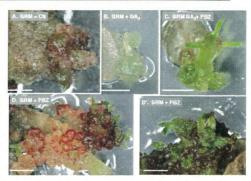
Effect of PBZ on callus formation and shoot regeneration. On 'P.dom' explants, callus extended to the whole explant when PBZ was added to SRM (Fig. 1D, 1D'), Regeneration was not significantly promoted but the initiated buds had an early-onset and a better appearance provided that PBZ is applied in the early stages of cellular dedifferentiation. Similarly, for 'P.sud', which formed an abundant callus, PBZ did not improve regeneration (Table 1) and led to shoots of poor quality (hyperhydric)(Fig.2C). In our experiment, results on 'P. dom' confirmed more or less those of Hutchinson while 'P.sud' did not.



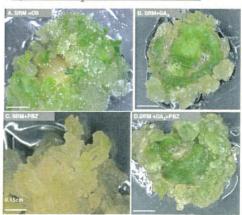


▼Table 1. Effect of GA₃, PBZ or GA₃+PBZ on callus formation and shoot regeneration

Regeneration medium		SRM control	SRM GA ₃ 10μM	SRM PBZ 0.3µM	SRM GA ₃ + PBZ
'P.dom'	Explants forming calli	94%	48%	81%	89%
	Explants forming shoots	65%	7%	44%	13%
	regenerated shoots (mean/explants)	53 (14.0 ± 7.4) ab	4 (0.2 ± 0.4) a	69 (17.3 ± 19.0) b	9 (2.3 ± 4.5) a
'P. sud'	Explants forming calli	100%	97%	100%	94%
	Explants forming shoots	83%	23%	79%	13%
	Regenerated shoots (mean/explant)	296 (59.2 ± 36.2) b	28 (5.6 ± 5.7) a	304 (60.8 ± 30.5) b	9 (1.8 ± 4.0) a



▲Fig.1. Effect of GA₃ and PBZ on 'P.dom' leaf discs



*Fig.2. Effect of GA3 and PBZ on 'P.sud' leaf discs.

Effect of PBZ + GA₃. PBZ and GA₃ applied at the same time (Table 1) restored totally the ability of callus formation compare to GA₃ alone and therefore but to a lesser extend the regeneration process in 'P.dom'. Conversely, in 'P.sud' explants, no restoration of buds regeneration was observed. This last result was expected since PBZ is an inhibitor of GA's synthesis.

CONCLUSION

In the experiments we have found complex relationships between GA₃, PBZ and dedifferentiation (callus) versus differentiation (shoot) processes within two cv of *Pelargonium*. The effect of GA's and its inhibitor varied according to the genotype and some of the effects differed from those observed by Hutchinson et al (1997). According to our results and in order to validate by transgenesis the function of gene related to GA's pathway, 'P. dom' which behaved better that 'P.sud' should be used. Moreover attention should be paid to the risk of regeneration inhibition when using overexpression of genes implied in GA₃ synthesis.

Hassanein, A, Dorion, N, (2005). Efficient plant regeneration system from leaf discs of zonal (*Pelargonium x hortorum*) and two scented (*P. capitatum* and *P. graveolens*) Geraniums. Plant Cell, Tissue and Organ Culture. 83: 231-240. Hutchinson, M.J., KrishnaRaj, S., Saxena, P.K., (1997). Inhibitory effect of GA₂ on the development of thidiazuron-induced somatic embryogenesis in geranium (*Pelargonium x hotorum Bailey*) hypocotyls cultures. Plant Cell Reports. 16: 435-4381

Poster

Effect of GA₃ and paclobutrazol on adventitious shoot regeneration of two *Pelargonium* sp.

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Abstract

In vitro plant regeneration methods from differentiated tissues are essential in biotechnology (plant breeding, genetic transformation, functional validation of genes...). Cell dedifferentiation and differentiation are complex phenomena induced *in vitro* by growth regulators. The effect of auxins and cytokinins has been extensively studied on somatic embryogenesis and organogenesis for several plants species. The effect of gibberellins (GA) is much less studied.

Hutchinson et al., 1997 showed that GA₃ has an inhibitory effect on development of somatic embryogenesis in *Pelargonium x hortorum*. Conversely, paclobutrazol, a GA biosynthestic inhibitor, promotes development of somatic embryogenesis

The objectives of this study was to test the effect of GA₃ and paclobutrazol on adventitious shoot regeneration

Adventitious shoot regeneration was performed on two *Pelargonium* species, *Pelargonium* x *hortorum* Panaché sud 'P.sud' and *Pelargonium domesticum* Autumn haze 'P.dom' according in the first step to Hassanein and Dorion 2005.

By choosing the explant type and mother plant age, both genotypes led to the highly efficient formation of adventitious shoots (> 70%) on the same medium. Both genotypes have different behavior during the shoot regeneration. 'P.dom' explants produces limited callus in the cut edges of leaf discs, buds are formed quickly and direct secondary organogenesis took place. 'P.sud' explants are totally dedifferentiated in callus which proliferates extensively before bud formation through several subcultures.

We evaluated the effect of a concentration range of GA_3 (1-20 μ M) and paclobutrazol (0.1-3 μ M) on the callus induction and bud regeneration of the two genotypes. GA_3 and paclobutrazol were added in regeneration medium separately or together to check, in the latter case, if the paclobutrazol can restore GA_3 effect.

In both cases, GA_3 applied alone, completely inhibits the bud regeneration. Moreover, the rate of callus formation decreased by 50% when 1 μ M GA_3 was applied to 'P.dom' explants. The same result was obtained on 'P.sud' explants using 20 μ M GA_3 . Paclobutrazol (3 μ M) applied at the same time that GA_3 (10 μ M) can partially restore regeneration process.

In 'P. dom', the use of paclobutrazol alone led to increase callus formation and slightly improved the rate of regeneration. Initiated buds have a better appearance (less hyperhydricity) provided that paclobutrazol is applied only in the early stages of cellular dedifferentiation. For genotype 'P. sud', which forms an abundant callus, paclobutrazol does not improve regeneration and led to hyperhydric shoot formation.

The understanding of gibberellins role on adventitious shoot regeneration in *Pelargonium* sp., is needed in order to improve the procedure. The modalities of cell differentiation and bud regeneration through callus or not are probably of major importance.

Keywords: Adventitious shoots regeneration; GA₃; Paclobutrazol; Pelargonium.

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Hassanein, A, Dorion, N, (2005). Efficient plant regeneration system from leaf discs of zonal (*Pelargonium x hortorum*) and two scented (*P. capitatum* and *P. graveolens*) Geraniums. Plant Cell, Tissue and Organ Culture. 83: 231-240. Hutchinson, M.J., KrishnaRaj, S., Saxena, P.K., (1997). Inhibitory effect of GA3 on the development of thidiazuron-induced somatic embryogenesis in geranium (*Pelargonium x hotorum Bailey*) hypocotyls cultures. Plant Cell Reports. 16: 435-438.