

***In vitro* growth behavior of *Paulownia kawakamii* hybrid under nutrient media and plant growth regulators effect**

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ABSTRACT

The goal of this study was to detect the most suitable treatment for multiplication of *Paulownia kawakamii* hybrid (101) trees to get rapid, healthy and normal plants. Shoot proliferation was induced using stem nodal explants cultured on MS, WPM or B5 medium containing different concentrations of BAP or Kin ± IBA. BAP was more suitable for inducing new shoots than Kin. The maximum numbers of the formed shoots per explant (8.3, 5.6 and 5.5) during the three successive subcultures were recorded for MS medium augmented with 1.0 mg/L BAP+0.2 mg/L IBA, 0.5 mg/L BAP+0.1 mg/L IBA and 0.5 mg/L BAP+0.1 mg/L IBA for the first, second and third subculture respectively.

Key words: *Paulownia*, *in vitro* culture, plant growth regulators.

Abbreviations: BAP (benzyl adenine purine), Kin (kinetin) and IBA (indole butyric acid). PGR (Plant growth regulator)

INTRODUCTION

Paulownia is a genus of between 6-17 species of plants in the family Paulowniaceae. They are native to much of China and have been naturalized in other parts of the world such as Europe and USA. They are fast growing deciduous trees, with large leaves arranged in opposite pairs on the stem. The trees are used for re-forestation, roadside planting and as ornamental trees. It grows well in a wide variety of soil types, notably poor ones, and yields a multiple-purpose wood of potential medicinal uses, and because of its wide-spreading root system, it may be used for phytoremediation of contaminated soils (Zhu *et al.* 1988).

The genus is receiving increasing attention as an extremely fast growing, short-rotation woody crop plant (Bergmann, 1997; Ipekci and Gozukismici, 2003). However, the potential invasive character of the species growing out of its natural range has recently been pointed out by Ding *et al.* (2006) and Essl, (2007). The *Paulownia* tree adapts easily to a wide range of climatic conditions. It grows well in tropical climates with abundant sunshine and rainfall. It can also be grown in regions as far north as 40 degrees latitude in the northern hemisphere with as little rainfall as 20 inches per year. In general, *Paulownia* tree grows well on sandy and clay soils. It adapts so easily, hence it can grow just as quickly on a wide variety of soils. *Paulownia* tree can also adapt to a wide range of temperatures. In Japan, *Paulownia* is commonly found in regions where the maximum temperature is 38-40 °C with a minimum temperature of -10 to -5 °C, and a mean temperature of 15-20 °C during the year so it would be a good plant to be introduced in Bangladesh for timber production and re-forestation.

Paulownia wood is used in house construction, for paper pulp, furniture making, farm implements and musical instruments (Ayan *et al.*, 2003). The *Paulownia* tree grows 5-6 m tall during the first

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growing season and adds 3 to 4 cm in diameter annually if optimal growing conditions are present (El-Showk and El-Showk, 2003). However, other reports have suggested that *Paulownia* grew 4.9 m after 4.5 months growth in Maryland (Preston, 1983). Under certain conditions *Paulownia* trees can grow up to 55 cm (1.8 feet) diameter and to a height of up to 15 - 20 meters (40-50 feet) in 3 to 5 years.

The application of micropropagation techniques in agro-forestry was essential because it offers a rapid way of producing genetically uniform cloned stock with high quality (Jagannathan, 1986). Some authors have already reported the way of micropropagation technique of *Paulownia* sp. It was achieved through the shoot bud formation from internodal explants of *P. kawakamii* (Lobna, 2008) and *P. elongata* (Ipekci, 2003). The effect of explant source on *in vitro* propagation of *Paulownia tomentosa* has been studied (Ozaslan, 2005). Callus induction from leaves of *P. elongata* (Rao, 1996, Nguyen *et al.*, 2005) has been reported and for *P. tomentosa* x *P. fortunei* for shoot regeneration (Fan, 2001). Therefore, an efficient vegetative propagation is an essential element for *Paulownia* clonal forestry and has many advantages over seedling production. Furthermore a vegetative propagation system based on adventitious shoot production could be integrated with genetic engineering (Ipekci and Gozukirmizi, 2003).

Results, presented from our study could be useful for the optimization of the rapid clonal propagation and further development of regeneration techniques aiming to produce normal plantlets.

Material and Methods

This study has been carried out in the Tissue Culture Res. Lab., Hort. Res. Institute, Agri. Res. Center (A.R.C.), Egypt, during the period from 2014 to 2015.

Plant Material:

Nodal explants were taken from *Paulownia kawakamii* tree at Faculty of Agriculture, Ain Shams Univ., Shobra El-Khyema, Egypt.

Explant Disinfection:

Explants were washed in soapy water using septol soap, then agitated in disinfectant solution of Savlon (3%) for 40 minutes and rinsed with running tap water for one hour. Thereafter, explants were surface disinfected under aseptic condition in safety cabinet using ethanol 70% for one minute, followed by a further sterilization by Clorox (NaOCl 5.25%) 20% (v/v) with a few drops of Tween-20 as emulsifier for 10 minutes, followed by mercuric chloride at 0.1 % (w/v) with a few drops of Tween-20 as emulsifier for 10 minutes. Three rinses with distilled water were adopted after disinfection.

Culture Media and Incubation Condition:

Explants were cultured on the following medium types:

- MS-medium (Murashige and Skoog, 1962)
- WPM-medium ``Woody Plant Medium`` (Lloyd and McCown, 1980)
- B5-medium (Gamborg *et al.*, 1968)

Media was supplemented with 3% sucrose and 0.7% agar (W/V). MS medium was supplemented with the following plant growth regulators: BAP or Kin at 0.5, 1.0, 1.5 and 2.0 mg/L \pm IBA 0.1 or 0.2 mg/L, compared to control (plant growth regulators free media). Cultures were incubated at 24 \pm 2 °C and illumination condition of 1500Lux using fluorescent lamp and 16/8 photoperiod. At this stage, each explant has been expanded into a cluster of shoots. Multiple shoots were separated and transplanted to new culture medium. Shoots were subcultured three times with 4 weeks intervals.

Statistical Analysis:

Mean separation was made using least significant differences (L.S.D.) at 5% level of significance. Test was applied for the comparison among means as described by Steel and Torrie (1980).

Results & Discussions

Shoot multiplication on different media type (MS, WPM and B5) with various concentrations of BAP or kin \pm IBA, nodal segments showed bud break and growth after two weeks of culture in media supplemented with all concentrations of BAP and kin with or without IBA in the first cycle of subculture. Although variations were observed in the response of explants to plant growth regulator treatment at the earlier subculture, the results reported here reflect the status of multiplication after three subcultures, reported on the performance per shoot basis and not as cumulative output after three subcultures. In this experiment, the medium type with different concentrations of BAP or kin \pm IBA shows significant effect on bud sprouting during the three cycles of subcultures. During the first cycle, bud sprouting ranged from 70 to 100% of cultured explants. WPM was more suitable and kin was more effective. Using IBA enhanced bud break, especially with low concentrations of BAP. Data takes the same trend during the second and the third cycles, but the bad effect of high concentrations of BAP increased especially when added to MS medium (Table 1).

Reduced number of shoots could be attributed to inhibition of adventitious meristem elongation by the use of higher BAP concentration as stated by Borchetia *et al.* (2009). Also, Lobna *et al.* (2008) stated that supplementation of the culture medium by 1.0 mg/l of BA favored shootlets initiation of *Paulownia kawakamii* compared with control. As for the number of the formed shoots per explant, MS

Table-1. Effect of medium type and plant growth regulators on bud sprouting (%) during three successive subcultures

(PGR) (mg/l)			Medium type								
			Subculture I			Subculture II			Subculture III		
BAP	Kin	IBA	MS	WPM	B5	MS	WPM	B5	MS	WPM	B5
--	--	--	90	85	80	85	80	80	85	80	80
0.5	--	--	95	90	90	90	100	80	90	90	85
1.0	--	--	80	85	80	82	100	80	80	82	80
1.5	--	--	80	80	75	60	85	73	70	75	80
2.0	--	--	80	80	70	55	75	70	40	70	70
0.5	--	0.1	95	95	90	90	100	85	40	100	80
0.5	--	0.2	95	95	90	90	100	80	60	100	80
1.0	--	0.1	95	95	80	80	100	80	60	80	80
1.0	--	0.2	90	95	80	80	100	80	60	80	80
1.5	--	0.1	82	90	80	75	100	70	55	60	80
1.5	--	0.2	82	90	80	75	100	70	50	60	80
2.0	--	0.1	70	85	70	40	95	50	50	65	70
2.0	--	0.2	60	85	70	40	92	55	50	65	70
--	0.5	---	90	95	90	100	100	90	100	100	80
--	1.0	--	90	95	90	100	100	90	100	100	80
--	1.5	--	90	95	90	100	100	90	100	100	80
--	2.0	--	90	95	90	90	100	85	100	100	80
--	0.5	0.1	100	100	90	100	100	85	100	100	90
--	0.5	0.2	100	100	90	100	100	90	100	100	90
--	1.0	0.1	100	100	90	100	100	90	100	100	90
--	1.0	0.2	100	100	90	100	100	90	100	100	90
--	1.5	0.1	90	100	90	90	100	90	100	100	90
--	1.5	0.2	90	100	90	90	100	90	100	100	90
--	2.0	0.1	85	100	90	85	100	90	80	100	90
--	2.0	0.2	90	100	90	80	100	90	80	100	90
L.S.D. at 5%			16.286			15.321			18.513		

Table-2. Effect of medium type and plant growth regulators on shoot number/explant during three successive subcultures

PGR (mg/l)			Medium type								
			Subculture I			Subculture II			Subculture III		
BAP	Kin	IBA	MS	WPM	B5	MS	WPM	B5	MS	WPM	B5
--	--	--	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
0.5	--	--	4.1	2.2	1.6	4.4	2.2	1.1	4.1	2.1	1.0
1.0	--	--	6.2	2.1	1.2	4.1	2.3	1.2	2.2	2.3	1.2
1.5	--	--	4.2	2.5	1.2	2.3	2.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.6s
2.0	--	--	3.3	3.2	1.1	2.2	3.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.5
0.5	--	0.1	6.1	3.2	1.3	5.6	2.2	1.2	5.5	3.0	1.0
0.5	--	0.2	6.3	3.3	1.1	5.1	2.1	1.1	5.4	2.2	1.0
1.0	--	0.1	4.6	2.3	1.2	3.0	2.2	1.2	3.1	2.3	1.0
1.0	--	0.2	8.3	2.6	1.5	3.2	3.5	1.2	2.2	2.2	1.0
1.5	--	0.1	5.2	2.2	1.1	4.0	2.2	1.5	2.3	2.0	1.0
1.5	--	0.2	5.8	2.1	1.6	4.5	2.2	1.4	2.5	2.1	1.0
2.0	--	0.1	4.1	2.4	1.1	2.0	2.1	1.1	1.7	2.1	1.0
2.0	--	0.2	4.5	2.2	1.2	2.1	2.1	1.2	1.8	2.0	1.0
--	0.5	--	3.1	2.1	1.1	3.2	2.2	1.1	2.2	2.5	1.0
--	1.0	--	3.3	2.2	1.1	3.5	2.2	1.6	2.3	2.7	1.0
--	1.5	--	3.6	3.5	1.2	3.2	2.1	1.2	2.1	2.2	1.0
--	2.0	--	4.1	3.3	1.2	3.2	3.3	1.1	2.4	2.1	1.0
--	0.5	0.1	3.2	2.2	1.2	3.2	2.6	1.2	2.2	1.5	1.0
--	0.5	0.2	4.3	2.3	1.2	3.1	2.1	1.3	2.3	1.3	1.0
--	1.0	0.1	4.1	3.4	1.2	2.3	2.5	1.1	2.1	1.3	1.0
--	1.0	0.2	4.5	3.3	1.1	3.6	2.0	1.2	2.2	1.4	1.0
--	1.5	0.1	3.4	3.4	1.2	3.4	2.0	1.1	2.3	1.1	1.0
--	1.5	0.2	4.3	3.2	1.2	2.1	2.1	1.5	2.4	1.0	1.2
--	2.0	0.1	3.1	2.1	1.1	3.2	2.2	1.1	2.1	1.0	1.6
--	2.0	0.2	3.1	2.1	1.1	2.1	2.1	1.2	2.1	1.0	1.2
L.S.D. at 5%			0.871			0.692			0.653		

medium was more effective for inducing more shoots compared with WPM and B5 (Table 2). The number of the formed shoots during the first subculture was greater than those of the second and the third ones, may be due to the explants during the first subcultures were under their physiological state of mother plant. Plant growth regulators were found to be necessary for multiplication as medium with 0.0 mg/L cytokinins did not show any multiplication except for growth of single shoot. BAP was more suitable for inducing new shoots than Kin. The maximum numbers of the formed shoots/explant (8.3, 5.6 and 5.5) during the three subcultures were recorded for MS medium augmented with 1.0 mg/L BAP+ 0.2 mg/L IBA, 0.5 mg/L BAP+0.1 mg/L IBA and 0.5 mg/L BAP+0.1 mg/L IBA for the first, second, third subcultures, respectively. Whereas, the lowest ones (1.0–1.6) were recorded for B5 medium and growth regulators free media.

Shoot length was significantly affected by treatments under investigation, either medium composition or growth regulator type (Table 3). Augmented media with IBA either 0.1 or 0.2 mg/l led to increases in shoot length compared to those of IBA free media. The maximum shoot lengths (6.2-6.3 cm) were attained at 0.5 mg/l BAP plus 0.1 or 0.2

mg/L IBA on MS medium. Increased concentration of BAP decreased the increased length of shoots produced by augmenting media with IBA. Also, Kin with all used concentrations increased shoot length compared with control growth regulator free media. Using B5 medium reduced the multiplication rate in terms of shoot number and shoot length. Previous studies were carried out to investigate micropropagation of *paulownia*, in this concern Rout *et al.* (2001) reported that shoot proliferation of *paulownia* was carried out on MS medium containing BAP or Kin as well as auxins were used. The combination of BAP (4.44 µM) and NAA (0.53 µM) was optimal.

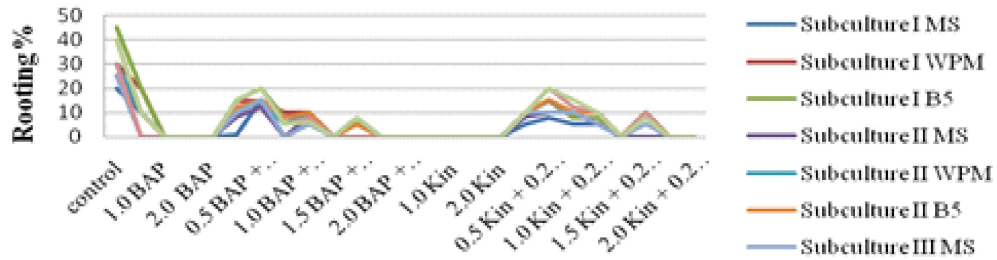
Undesirable influence of different concentrations of BAP (mg/l) on shoot multiplication

As shown in Fig. (1) and Plate (1), cytokinin type and concentration suitable for micropropagation of woody plants have to be carefully optimized. The data reported in this study are based on observation made after three subculture cycles. The observations show that continuous subculture on medium with BAP concentration of above 1.0 mg/L resulted in hyperhydricity (vitrification). Furthermore, increased

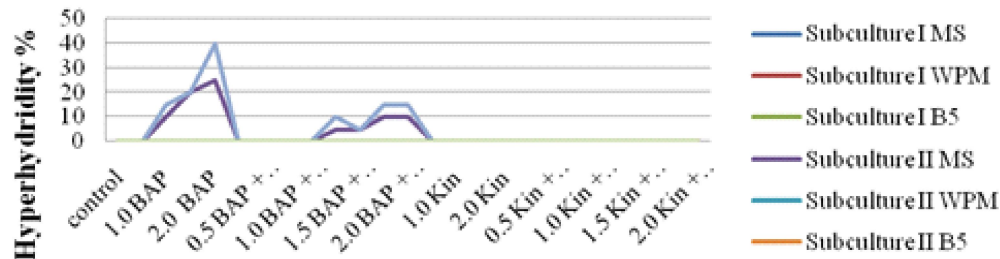
Table-3. Effect of medium type and plant growth regulators on shoot length (cm) during three successive subcultures

PGR (mg/l)			Medium type								
BAP	Kin	IBA	Subculture I			Subculture II			Subculture III		
			MS	WPM	B5	MS	WPM	B5	MS	WPM	B5
--	--	--	4.0	3.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.4	1.5	1.0	1.0
0.5	--	--	6.7	5.9	3.6	3.3	5.1	3.6	4.3	3.2	2.4
1.0	--	--	4.6	4.8	3.6	3.1	4.2	3.2	3.7	3.5	2.6
1.5	--	--	4.1	3.9	3.4	2.8	3.1	3.1	2.7	2.9	2.1
2.0	--	--	3.7	3.7	3.2	2.7	2.9	3.0	2.5	2.1	1.4
0.5	--	0.1	6.2	6.1	4.1	5.8	5.4	3.6	5.9	3.3	2.7
0.5	--	0.2	6.3	6.3	4.4	6.0	5.6	2.8	5.7	3.5	2.8
1.0	--	0.1	6.0	5.4	4.1	4.2	4.6	2.7	4.0	3.1	2.6
1.0	--	0.2	6.2	5.5	4.2	4.3	4.3	2.1	3.1	3.2	2.5
1.5	--	0.1	4.3	4.8	3.5	2.9	3.7	2.6	2.8	3.2	2.0
1.5	--	0.2	4.5	4.9	3.4	2.8	3.1	2.0	2.9	2.8	1.9
2.0	--	0.1	3.2	4.5	3.6	2.5	2.4	2.2	2.2	2.2	1.9
2.0	--	0.2	3.1	4.5	3.8	2.6	2.2	2.1	2.3	2.1	1.7
--	0.5	--	5.9	6.1	5.7	4.2	3.6	3.1	4.9	3.3	2.6
--	1.0	--	6.4	5.2	4.1	4.3	3.2	3.2	4.1	3.5	2.8
--	1.5	--	6.3	5.1	3.5	3.6	3.3	3.0	3.8	3.5	2.7
--	2.0	--	6.1	5.1	3.1	3.1	3.5	2.8	3.9	3.3	2.6
--	0.5	0.1	6.8	6.1	4.2	5.2	3.7	3.7	5.2	4.3	3.1
--	0.5	0.2	6.7	6.2	4.5	5.4	4.6	3.9	5.1	4.1	3.5
--	1.0	0.1	6.3	6.0	3.2	4.1	4.5	4.1	4.7	4.2	2.8
--	1.0	0.2	6.2	5.9	3.4	4.2	4.3	3.1	4.7	3.5	2.7
--	1.5	0.1	5.3	5.4	3.2	3.6	4.1	3.0	4.6	3.2	2.7
--	1.5	0.2	5.1	4.3	3.1	3.4	4.1	2.5	4.9	2.2	2.6
--	2.0	0.1	4.8	4.2	2.8	2.7	3.3	2.1	4.3	2.2	2.5
--	2.0	0.2	4.9	4.4	2.7	2.9	3.7	2.1	4.1	2.0	2.5
L.S.D. at 5%			1.089			0.934			0.873		

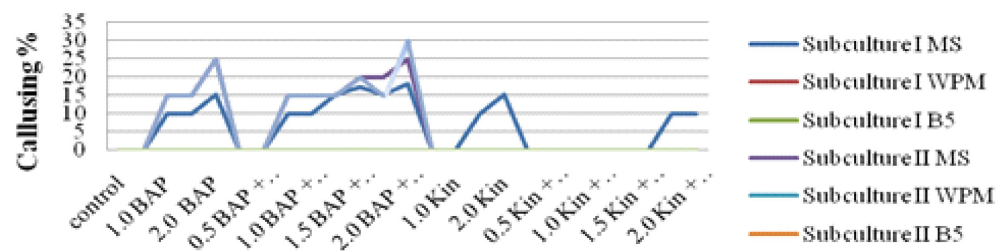
Figure-1. Influence of different concentrations of BAP (mg/l) on shoot multiplication



A. Root formation as a result of medium type & plant growth regulators



B. Hyperhydricity as a result of medium type & plant growth regulators



C. Callus formation as a result of medium type & plant growth regulators

Plate.1. Undesirable influence of different medium type and concentrations of BAP (mg/l) on shoot multiplication



A: normal shoots



B: slightly hyperhydricity



C: callus formation and reduction of bud sprouting



D: callus formation with hyperhydricity



E: root formation, growth reduction with low bud sprouting



F: normal shoot with base callus formation and rooting.

callus formation and hyperhydricity at high concentrations of BAP were prominent. Constant presence of BAP at optimal concentrations was necessary at different subcultures and there seemed to be accumulative gain over subcultures in both the number as well as the sturdiness of the shoots.

Neither WPM nor B5 media caused hyperhydricity or callusing for the *in vitro* propagated Paulownia but they lead to less multiplication rate compared to MS medium. Our investigation is in agreement with those of Clapa *et al.* (2014) who suggested that the media supplemented with BAP insured intense proliferation of axillary buds but it caused negative physiological effects (abundant callus growth at plantlets base). Therefore, cytokinin type and concentration suitable for micropropagation of woody plants have to be carefully optimized.

Conflict of Interests:

Authors declare that there is no conflict of interests regarding the publication of this paper.

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سلوك الباولونيا كاواكاميائي تحت تأثير البيئة الغذائية و منظمات النمو
بمزارع الأنسجة

تهدف هذه الدراسة الى تحديد أنسب معاملة لاكتثار هجين الباولونيا كاواكاميائي (101) للحصول على نباتات صحيحة وطبيعية بصورة سريعة. تم الحصول على براعم متكشفة باستخدام العقد الساقية كمنفصل نباتي على بيئات MS, WPM , B5 تحتوي على تركيزات مختلفة من البنزويل أمينو بيورين أو الكينيتين منفردين أو مضافا معهما حمض اندول بيوتريك . تم الحصول على أكبر قيم لعدد الفروع المتكونه لكل منفصل نباتي خلال الثلاث نقلات (8.3 و 5.6 و 5.5) عند استخدام بيئة MS مضافا اليها 1.0 ملجم/لتر بنزويل أمينو بيورين + 0.2 ملجم /لتر اندول أسيتك أسيد ، 0.5 ملجم/لتر بنزويل أمينو بيورين + 0.1 ملجم /لتر اندول أسيتك أسيد، 0.5 ملجم/لتر بنزويل أمينو بيورين + 0.1 ملجم /لتر حمض اندول أسيتك أسيد للثلاث نقلات على التوالي.
