

In Vitro Micro-propagation of Cordyline and Dieffenbachia Plants

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Abstract: This study was carried out in Plant Tissue Culture Laboratory of the Faculty of Environmental Agricultural Sciences, El-Arish, North Sinai, Suez Canal University, Egypt during the period from April 2013 to March 2015. The objective of this study was to optimize the micro-propagation protocol for *Cordyline terminals* and *Dieffenbachia picta* cv. "Tropica" in order to make the *in vitro* propagation feasible and economical by enhancing the slow rate of multiplication of traditional methods. Results indicated that BA at 1.0 mg/l⁻¹ combined with 0.1 mg/l⁻¹ NAA surpassed all other cytokinins (Kin and 2ip) with significant increase on number of axillary shoots/explant, axillary shoot length, number of leaves/shoot. During establishment stage, Main shoot length (2.55, 3.90 cm, 7.33 and 7.04 cm, respectively) on cordyline and (2.33, 4.19 cm, 9.40 and 6.33 cm, respectively) on dieffenbachia. However, in multiplication stage, data revealed that increasing BA concentrations significantly increased growth of cordyline and dieffenbachia compared with control. Data showed that addition of 2 mg/l⁻¹ BA combined with NAA at 0.1 mg/l⁻¹ recorded the highest values of number of axillary shoots/explant, axillary shoot length, number of leaves/shoot and main shoot length (2.86, 5.55 cm, 9.40 and 8.77 cm, respectively) on cordyline, while values were 2.66, 5.66 cm, 9.88 and 8.66 cm, respectively on dieffenbachia. The combination between licorice extract and sucrose significantly increased growth parameters of cordyline. The highest values of number of axillary shoots/explant, axillary shoot length, number of leaves/shoot and main shoot length (2.30, 3.25, 6.15 and 4.20, respectively) were recorded with on cordyline belongs MS medium + 30 g/l⁻¹ sucrose and licorice at 40 mg/l⁻¹, combined with (BA) at 2 mg/l⁻¹ and 0.1 mg/l⁻¹ NAA. On the other side, number of axillary shoots/explant of dieffenbachia was not affected by the medium supplementation with the mentioned factors. For rooting stage, results revealed that NAA was the best auxin in roots induction of cordyline and dieffenbachia with high significant increase in root length and number of roots. While, there was no difference among NAA, IBA and IAA in rooting percentage. Moreover, NAA at 1.0 mg/l⁻¹ recorded the highest values of number of roots and root length (10.00 and 21.33 cm, respectively) on cordalyne and (8.00 and 8.53 cm, respectively) on dieffenbachia. Rooted plantlets were *ex vitro* acclimatized (95% survival) of cordyline and dieffenbachia when they were cultured in (1:1:1:1, v/v/v/v) peat moss, perlite, vermiculite and sand before transferred to soil.

Keywords: *Cordyline terminals*, *Dieffenbachia picta* cv. "Tropica", BA, Licorice, Sucrose, and NAA

INTRODUCTION

Cordyline belongs to the family Laxmanniaceae and is very closely related to dracaena (Liamas, 2003). It is a long slender bush up to 3 m in height and priced for its rich coloured foliage, including variegated forms (Kattoor, 2010). Cordyline are excellent pot plants in their juvenile state and some of them are also suitable for growing in borders and shrubberies under a mild climate, for shade gardens and greenhouse. Most species are widely used for table decorations when they are young. As foliage plants are produced primarily for interior decoration or plants landscaping, a continued desire for multicolour foliage plants in interior designs has resulted in a dramatic increase in ornamental foliage plant production (Ray *et al.*, 2006).

The genus *Dieffenbachiasa* member of the family Araceae, one of the most important tropical foliage plants (Trigiano and Gray, 2000), it consists of about 30 species and over 100 cultivars with spotted, striped or speckled with cream, white, yellow, gold, silver, or a combination of these colored leaves, 15 to 40 or 50 cm in length (Henny, 1977; Henny *et al.*, 2000). Species used in interior landscapes are: *Dieffenbachia maculate* (syn. *D. picta*), *D. amoena* and *D. seguine* (Daffalla *et al.*, 2013).

By traditional mode of propagation from a single plant, like cuttings and air layering, less number of plants is produced taking more time and encountered sometimes with difficulties such as fungal, bacterial and viral diseases (Chase, 1987). Therefore, the use of tissue

cultured plantlets can obviously offer more number of plants within a relatively short period (Khan *et al.*, 2004).

Propagation of cordyline and dieffenbachia by *in vitro* techniques offers many unique advantages over conventional propagation methods such as disinfection, rapid multiplication of valuable genotypes, expeditious release of improved varieties, production of disease-free plants, non-seasonal production and facilitating their easy international exchange (Govil and Gupta, 1997).

The present study aims to optimize the micro propagation protocol for cordyline and dieffenbachia in order to make the propagation feasible and economical to overcome the slow rate of multiplication of traditional methods.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study was carried out in the Plant Tissue Culture Laboratory, Faculty of Environmental Agricultural Sciences (FEAS), El-Arish, North Sinai, Suez Canal University (SCU) during the period from April 2013 to March 2015.

Establishment stage:

Plants source and surface sterilization:

Cordyline terminals and *Dieffenbachia picta* cv. "Tropica" materials for conducting the experiments were collected from Floriculture and Medicinal Plants Farm, FEAS, El-Arish, Suez Canal Univ. Young shoots from the cordyline and dieffenbachia plants grown in

the green house were collected and brought into laboratory. Shoots of both plants were washed under running tap water for 1h after removing all leaves. Explants were sterilized with 70% ethanol for 30 seconds then washed with sterile distilled water. Explants were transferred to the laminar air flow hood and treated with 0.1% mercuric chloride (HgCl_2) solution for 2 minutes then rinsed with sterile distilled water. Explants that contain one node (1-2 cm long) were cut and cultured on the medium.

Media Preparation:

The sterilized explants were cultured on MS medium (Murashige and Skoog, 1962) solidified with agar at 8 g l^{-1} and supplemented with glycine (2 mg l^{-1}), Myo-inositol (0.1 g l^{-1}) and sucrose (30 g l^{-1}). Medium was supplemented with different concentrations (0.0, 1.0 mg l^{-1}) of benzyladenine (BA), kinetin (kin) or 6-(γ , γ dimethylallyl amino) (2ip) combined with 0.1 mg l^{-1} α -naphthalene acetic acid (NAA). The pH of medium was adjusted to 5.7-5.8 using KOH or HCl. The medium was cooked then distributed into 300 ml culture jars. Each jar contained 50 ml of the medium and the jars were immediately autoclaved at 121°C and 1.1 Kg cm^2 for 20 min.

Culture conditions:

Cultures in establishment stage were incubated in growth room at $25 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ under 16 h/day photoperiod which provided by cool white fluorescent lamps with light intensity of 2000 Lux.

Multiplication stage:

This stage aimed to increase the number of shoots. So, after six weeks from establishment stage plants were used as a source of multiplication stage. Explants were cultured on MS medium supplemented with BA at 0.0, 0.5, 1.0, 1.5 or 2.0 mg l^{-1} combined with 0.1 mg l^{-1} NAA.

Effect of licorice and sucrose concentrations:

This experiment was conducted to determine the effect of sucrose at 0.0 or 30 g l^{-1} with licorice (*Glycyrrhiza glabra* L.) extract at 0.0, 10, 20 or 40 mg l^{-1} on shoots proliferation. All these treatments were supplemented with BA at 2.0 mg l^{-1} combined with 0.1 mg l^{-1} NAA. For all the above mentioned experiments, number of axillary shoots/explants, main shoot length (cm), axillary shoots length (cm) and No. of leaves/shoot were recorded after eight weeks from incubation date.

Rooting stage:

Single shoots from multiplication stage were cultured on MS medium free for one month and similar shoots of *Cordyline terminalis* and *Diffenbachia picta* cv. "Tropica" (about 2-3 cm length) were cultured on MS medium supplemented with different auxin types (*i.e.* indole acetic acid (IAA), indole butyric acid (IBA) or naphthalene acetic acid (NAA) at 0.0 and 1.0 mg l^{-1}) to determine their effect on rooting of both plants.

Effect of NAA concentrations on rooting of *Cordyline terminalis* and *Diffenbachia picta* cv. Tropica shoots during rooting stage:

This experiment was conducted to determine the effect of NAA concentrations at 0.0, 0.5, 1.0, 1.5 or

2 mg l^{-1} on rooting of cordyline and dieffenbachia.

Acclimatization stage:

Plantlets (about 3-4 cm length) were acclimatized by transferring them into black pots 8 cm diameter filled with two mixtures of soil the first one (1:1:1:1, v/v/v/v) peat moss, perlite, vermiculite and sand; the second one were (1:1:1, v/v/v) peat moss, perlite and sand. The cultured pots were covered with transparent polyethylene. After one week holes were made in covered polyethylene. These holes were expanded gradually each week. After four weeks plantlets became suitable for transferring to the outside of green house.

Experimental design and statistical analysis:

Experiments were set up in a complete randomized design (CRD). All collected data were analyzed with analysis of variance (ANOVA) procedure using MSTAT-C Statistical Software Package (Michigan State University, 1983). Differences between means were compared using Duncan's multiple range test (Duncan, 1955).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Establishment stage:

Effect of type of cytokinines combined with 0.1 mg l^{-1} NAA on *Cordyline terminalis* and *Diffenbachia picta* cv. "Tropica" shoots proliferation and growth during establishment stage:

Results presented in Table (1.a) show the effect of types of cytokinin combined with 0.1 mg l^{-1} NAA on *Cordyline terminalis* shoots proliferation and growth during establishment stage. Results revealed that BA at 1.0 mg l^{-1} combined with 0.1 mg l^{-1} NAA in most cases surpassed all other cytokinins with significant increase on number of axillary shoots/explant, axillary shoot length, number of leaves/shoot and main shoot length (2.55, 3.90 cm, 7.33 and 7.04 cm, respectively).

These results are generally in a harmony with the findings of Vardja and Vardja (2001) who found that 1.0 mg/L BA resulted in good proliferation and formation of long shoots.

The same trend was observed on *Diffenbachia picta* cv. "Tropica" when MS media supplemented with BA at 1.0 mg l^{-1} combined with 0.1 mg l^{-1} NAA and recorded the highest growth parameters [*i.e.* number of axillary shoots/explant, axillary shoot length, number of leaves/shoot and main shoot length (2.33, 4.19 cm, 9.40 and 6.33 cm, respectively)] as shown in Table (1.b).

These results are different than those findings of Jun *et al.* (2001) since they used BA alone (3-5 mg/L) for multiple shoot induction and proliferation of 9 species of *Dieffenbachia*. Iqbal *et al.* (1999) used 1.0 mg/L each of BA and NAA for *Dieffenbachia* buds (apical and axillary buds) proliferation on MS medium. Whereas, Chao and Li-si. However, Schroeder (2008) showed that 1.5 mg/L BA + 0.05 mg/L NAA was the suitable medium for axillary bud development. However, Schroeder (2000) added 1.0 mg/L NAA to 3.0 mg/L 2iP and 10 mg/L kin instead of BAP to obtain plantlets from axillary buds of *D. amoena* cv. "Tropica".

Table (1.a): Effect of cytokinin types combined with 0.1 mg^l⁻¹ NAA on *Cordyline terminalis* shoots proliferation and growth during establishment stage

Plant	Cytokinin types (mg ^l ⁻¹)	No. of axillary shoots/explant	Axillary shoot length (cm)	No. of leaves/shoot	Main shoot length(cm)
Cordyline	Control	1.33 b	3.50 b	5.11 b	2.92 c
	BA	2.55 a	3.90 a	7.33 a	7.04 a
	Kin	1.55 b	3.50 b	5.90b	3.82b
	2ip	1.55 b	3.50 b	5.88 b	3.20 c

Means having the same letter (s) within the same column are not significantly different according to Duncan's multiple range test at 5% level of probability.

Table (1.b): Effect of cytokinin types combined with 0.1 mg^l⁻¹ NAA on *Dieffenbachia picta* cv. Tropica shoots proliferation and growth during the establishment stage.

Plant	Cytokinin types (mg ^l ⁻¹)	No. of axillary shoots/explant	Axillary shoot length (cm)	No. of leaves/shoot	Main shoot length(cm)
Dieffenbachia	Control	1.33 b	2.60 c	4.44 c	3.22 b
	BA	2.33 a	4.19 a	9.40 a	6.33 a
	Kin	1.33 b	3.48 b	5.55 b	3.86b
	2ip	1.33 b	2.75 c	5.00b	3.50 b

Means having the same letter (s) within the same column are not significantly different according to Duncan's multiple range test at 5% level of probability.

Multiplication stage:

Effect of benzyladenine (BA) concentrations combined with 0.1 mg^l⁻¹ NAA on *Cordyline terminalis* and *Dieffenbachia picta* cv. Tropica shoots proliferation and growth during multiplication stage:

The main effect of BA concentrations combined with 0.1 mg^l⁻¹ NAA on *Cordyline terminalis* shoot proliferation and growth during multiplication stages presented in Table (2.a) and Fig (1). Data revealed that increasing BA concentrations significantly increased growth of *Cordyline terminalis* compared with control. Data show that addition of 2 mg^l⁻¹BA combined with NAA at 0.1 mg^l⁻¹ recorded the highest values of number

of axillary shoots/explant, axillary shoot length, number of leaves/shoot and main shoot length (2.86, 5.55cm, 9.40 and 8.77 cm, respectively).

These results are generally in a harmony with the findings of Kattoor (2010) on dracaena and cordyline who found that shoot multiplication was significantly promoted on the media containing BAP at 4 mg/l along with 0.5 mg/l of NAA. Also, results of Chinnu *et al.* (2012) on *Cordyline* sp. indicated that response of explants on Murashige and Skoog's medium and further growth on medium with (BAP) at 4 mg/l, and (NAA) at 0.5 mg/l and gibberelic acid (GA3) at 5 mg/l, produced the best shoot growth.

Table (2.a): Effect of BA concentrations combined with 0.1 mg^l⁻¹ NAA on *Cordyline terminalis* shoots proliferation and growth during multiplication stage

Plant	BA (mg ^l ⁻¹)	No. of axillary shoots/explant	Axillary shoot length(cm)	No. of leaves/shoot	Main shoot length(cm)
Cordyline	0.0	1.33 c	2.30 d	5.33 e	3.20 e
	0.5	2.22 b	2.90 c	5.90 d	4.55 d
	1.0	2.45 ab	3.90 b	7.33 c	7.04 c
	1.5	2.60 ab	4.10 b	8.00 b	8.20 b
	2.0	2.86 a	5.55 a	9.40a	8.77 a

Means having the same letter (s) within the same column are not significantly different according to Duncan's multiple range test at 5% level of probability.

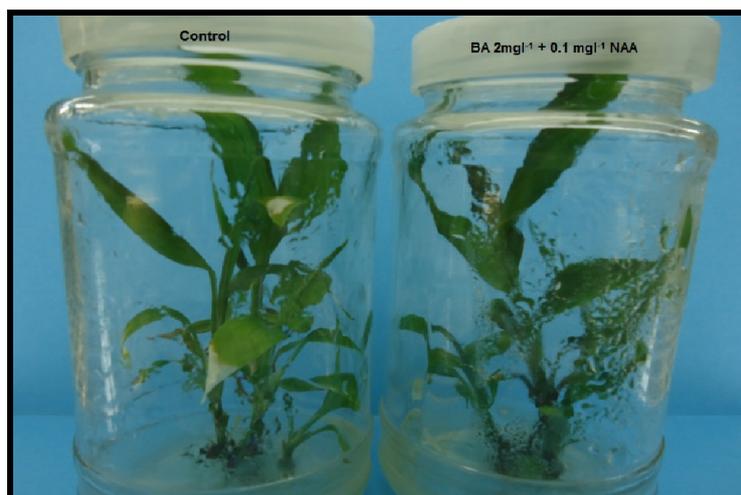


Fig. (1): Effect of BA at 2.0 mg l⁻¹ + 0.1 mg l⁻¹ NAA on *Cordyline terminals* shoots proliferation and growth during multiplication stage.

Data illustrated in Table (2.b) and Fig (2) show that similar trend was observed on *Diffenbachia picta* cv. "Tropica" when MS supplemented 2mg l⁻¹ BA combined with NAA at 0.1 mg l⁻¹ and recorded the highest values of number of axillary shoots/explant, axillary shoot length, number of leaves/shoot and main shoot length (2.66, 5.66 cm, 9.88 and 8.66 cm, respectively).

These results are generally in a harmony with the findings of El-Mahrouk *et al.* (2006) since they fortified MS media with 8.0 mg/L BA and 0.1 mg/L NAA to multiply stem nodes of *D. Tropic Snow.*, Elsayy and Bakheet (1999) since who multiplied shoot tip of *D. picta* cv. Tropica on MS medium supplemented with 4.0 mg/L BA.

Table (2.b): Effect of BA concentrations combined with 0.1 mg l⁻¹ NAA on "Tropica" shoots proliferation and growth during multiplication stage.

Plant	BA (mg l ⁻¹)	No. of axillary shoots/explant	Axillary shoot length(cm)	No. of leaves/shoot	Main shoot length(cm)
<i>Dieffenbachia</i>	0.0	1.33c	2.60 d	5.00 d	3.50 e
	0.5	1.88 b	3.70 c	7.50 c	5.50 d
	1.0	2.33 ab	4.20 b	8.40 b	6.33 c
	1.5	2.40ab	4.40 b	9.33 a	7.44 b
	2.0	2.66 a	5.66 a	9.88 a	8.66 a

Means having the same letter (s) within the same column are not significantly different according to Duncan's multiple range test at 5% level of probability.

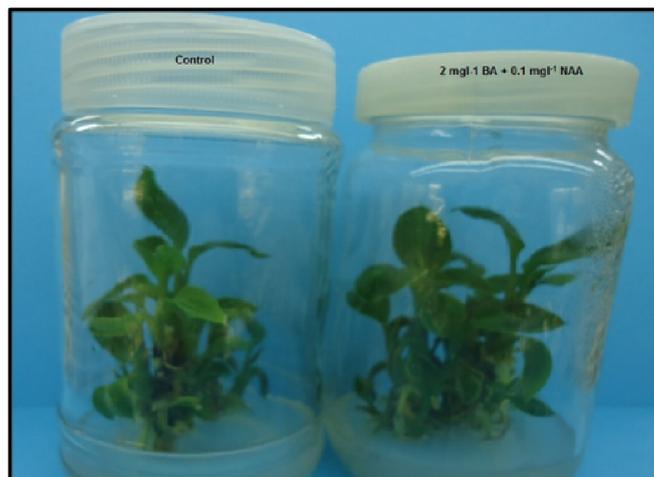


Fig. 2. Effect of BA at 2.0 mg l⁻¹ + 0.1 mg l⁻¹ NAA on *Diffenbachia picta* cv. Tropica shoots proliferation and growth during multiplication stage

Effect of sucrose and licorice concentrations combined with 2mg^l-1 BA and 0.1 mg^l-1 NAA on *Cordyline terminals* and *Dieffenbachia picta* cv. Tropica shoots proliferation and growth during multiplication stage:

The response of different sucrose and licorice concentrations combined with BA at 2 mg^l-1 and 0.1 mg^l-1 NAA on *Cordyline terminals* shoots proliferation and growth during multiplication stage are presented in Table (3.a). Results revealed that combination between licorice and sucrose significantly increased growth parameters of *Cordyline terminals*. The highest values of number of axillary shoots/explant, axillary shoot length, number of leaves/shoot and main shoot length (2.30, 3.25, 6.15 and 4.20, respectively) on *Cordyline terminals* belongs to 30 g^l-1 sucrose with licorice at 40

mg^l-1 combined with (BA) at 2 mg^l-1 and 0.1 mg^l-1 NAA.

The licorice has an impact in shoot proliferation in many plants as reported by Hamza *et al.* (2011) since they showed that licorices concentrations had a significant effect on all parameter of potato. Licorice at 50 ml/l with "Diamant" cv. resulted in increasing the average of percentage of growing buds, leaves number, shoot number, nodes number per plant, plant length and root length (99.77%, 11.65, 2.88, 10.83, 12.89 and 3.69 cm respectively). Application of licorice extract may be attributed to the fact that licorice roots is rich with many essential minerals, flavonoids, natural antioxidants and carbohydrates including glucose and fructose and more glycosides may be a major factor to increase growth parameters (Morsi *et al.*, 2008).

Table (3.a): Effect of sucrose and licorice concentrations with (BA) at 2 mg^l-1 and 0.1 mg^l-1 NAA on *Cordyline terminals* shoots proliferation and growth during multiplication stage.

Plant	Sucrose (g ^l -1)	Licorice (mg ^l -1)	No. of axillary shoots/explant	Axillary shoot length (cm)	No. of leaves/shoot	Main shoot length (cm)
Cordyline	0	0	1.33e	2.30 e	5.33 b	3.20 e
	0	10	1.86 cd	2.65 d	5.60 ab	3.55 d
	0	20	1.95bc	2.95 bc	5.80 ab	3.70 cd
	0	40	2.10 ab	3.22 a	5.94 ab	3.95 a-c
	30	0	1.60 d	2.80 cd	5.80 ab	3.90 bc
	30	10	1.90 bd	2.95 bc	5.96 ab	3.97 a-c
	30	20	2.10 ab	3.11 ab	6.11 a	4.12 ab
	30	40	2.30 a	3.25 a	6.15 a	4.20 a

Means having the same letter (s) within the same column are not significantly different according to Duncan^s multiple range test at 5% level of probability.

The response of different sucrose and licorice concentrations combined with BA at 2 mg^l-1 and 0.1 mg^l-1 NAA on *Dieffenbachia picta* cv. "Tropica" shoots proliferation and growth during multiplication stage are presented in Table (3.b). Data showed that addition of licorice and sucrose combined with BA at 2 mg^l-1 and

0.1 mg^l-1 NAA significantly increased axillary shoot length, number of leaves/shoot and main shoot length. On the other side, number of axillary shoots/explant was not affected by supplementation with the mentioned factors.

Table (3.b): Effect of sucrose and licorice concentrations with (BA) at 2 mg^l-1 and 0.1 mg^l-1 NAA on *Dieffenbachia picta* cv. Tropica shoots proliferation and growth during multiplication stage.

Plant	Sucrose (g ^l -1)	Licorice (mg ^l -1)	No. of axillary shoots/explant	Axillary shoot length (cm)	No. of leaves/shoot	Main shoot length (cm)
Dieffenbachia	0	0	1.33 a	2.60 e	5.00 e	3.50 f
	0	10	1.81 a	2.70 e	5.48 d	3.50 f
	0	20	1.94 a	3.20 d	6.40 c	4.33 d
	0	40	2.0 a	3.40 d	7.33 b	4.44 cd
	30	0	1.5 a	3.33 d	6.88 b	3.90 e
	30	10	2.0 a	4.30 c	7.33 b	4.70 c
	30	20	2.0 a	4.90 b	7.90 a	5.22 b
	30	40	2.03 a	5.44 a	8.50 a	5.70 a

Means having the same letter (s) within the same column are not significantly different according to Duncan^s multiple range test at 5% level of probability.

Rooting stage:**Effect of auxin type on rooting of *Cordyline terminalis* and *Diffenbachia picta* cv. during rooting stage:**

Effect of auxin type on rooting of *Cordyline terminalis* is illustrated in Table (4.a) Results Revealed that NAA was the best auxin in cordyline roots induction with high significant increase in root length, gradually significant in number of roots. While, there is no differences between all treatments in rooting percentage. Moreover, NAA at 1.0 mg^l⁻¹ recorded the highest values of number of roots and root length (10.00 and 21.33 cm, respectively). Kiran *et al.* (2004) since

they reported that *in vitro* shoots of *Mentha piperita* were excised from shoot clumps and transferred to rooting medium containing 1 mg^l⁻¹ NAA.

The same trend was observed on *Diffenbachia picta* cv. "Tropica" which presented in Table (4.b). Data show that MS supplementation with 1.0 mg^l⁻¹ NAA gained the highest values of rooting parameters *i.e.* number of roots and root length (8.00 and 8.53 cm, respectively). Similar results for the positive effect of NAA on rooting of dieffenbachia were reported by El-Sawy and Bakheet (1999), Chu (2002) and Genfa *et al.* (1999).

Table (4.a): Effect of auxin type on rooting of *Cordyline terminalis* shoots during rooting stage.

Plant	Auxin (1.0mg ^l ⁻¹)	Rooting percentage	No. of roots	Root length (cm)
Cordyline	Control	100 a	8.00 b	10.66 c
	IBA 1.0 mg ^l ⁻¹	100 a	9.00 ab	15.33 b
	IAA 1.0 mg ^l ⁻¹	100 a	7.33 b	8.00 c
	NAA 1.0 mg ^l ⁻¹	100 a	10.00 a	21.33 a

Means having the same letter (s) within the same column are not significantly different according to Duncan's multiple range test at 5% level of probability.

Table (4.b): Effect of auxin type on rooting of *Diffenbachia picta* cv. during rooting stage.

Plant	Auxin (1.0mg ^l ⁻¹)	Rooting percentage	No. of roots	Root length (cm)
Dieffenbachia	Control	100 a	2.33 b	2.70 b
	IBA	100 a	4.00 b	8.43 a
	IAA	100 a	3.33 b	1.66 b
	NAA	100 a	8.00 a	8.53 a

Means having the same letter (s) within the same column are not significantly different according to Duncan's multiple range test at 5% level of probability.

Effect of NAA concentrations on rooting of *Cordyline terminalis* and *Diffenbachia picta* cv. during rooting stage:

The response of NAA concentrations on rooting of *Cordyline terminalis* shoots during rooting stage are presented in Table (5.a). Results revealed that, there were no significant differences between additions of 1.0 and 1.5 mg^l⁻¹ NAA.

These results are generally in agreement with the findings of Ooi *et al.* (1996) who found that, rooting of *Dracaena fragrans* cv. Massangeana was 100% for shoots derived from media with 0-2.0 mg/l BAP and a relatively low concentration of NAA (0.1 mg^l⁻¹).

Results presented in Table (5.b) show the effect of NAA concentrations on rooting of *Diffenbachia picta* cv. "Tropica" shoots during rooting stage. Results clear that rooting percentage was not affected by supplementation with NAA. While, number of roots and root length were significantly affected by NAA additions at 1.0 mg^l⁻¹.

These results are generally in a harmony with the findings of Dabski and Parzymies (2007) who achieved that the highest number of rooted micro-shoots and the longest roots of *Hebe buchananii* were formed in the presence of IBA. On the medium supplemented with IAA at 2.5 and 5.0 mg^l⁻¹, IBA at 5 mg^l⁻¹ and NAA in concentration of 1 mg·dm⁻³ 100% of rooted shoots of *Hebe canterburiensis* 'Prostrate' were obtained.

Acclimatization stage:**Effect of soil mixtures on *Cordyline terminalis* and *Diffenbachia picta* cv. Tropica plantlets during acclimatization:**

Rooted plantlets were *ex vitro* acclimatized (95% survival) of *Cordyline terminalis* and *Diffenbachia picta* cv. "Tropica" when they were cultured in peat moss, perlite, vermiculite and sand (1:1:1:1, v/v/v/v) before transferred to soil and successfully grown in the open field.

Table (5.a): Effect of NAA concentrations on rooting of *Cordyline terminals* shoots during rooting stage.

Plant	NAA	Rooting percentage	No. of roots	Root length (cm)
Cordyline	Control	100 a	2.33 c	1.16 d
	NAA 0.5	100 a	4.66 b	1.93 c
	NAA 1.0	100 a	10.66 a	15.33a
	NAA 1.5	100 a	10.33 a	6.00 b
	NAA 2.0	100 a	2.00 c	1.00 d

Means having the same letter (s) within the same column are not significantly different according to Duncan^s multiple range test at 5% level of probability

Table (5.b): Effect of NAA concentrations on rooting of *Dieffenbachia picta* cv. during rooting stage.

Plant	NAA	Rooting percentage	No. of roots	Root length (cm)
Dieffenbachia	Control	100 a	3.00 cd	3.00 b
	NAA 0.5	100 a	5.33 ab	1.66 c
	NAA 1.0	100 a	6.66 a	8.16 a
	NAA 1.5	100 a	2.00 d	1.33 c
	NAA 2.0	100 a	4.00 bc	1.56 c

Means having the same letter (s) within the same column are not significantly different according to Duncan^s multiple range test at 5% level of probability

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الإكثار المعملّي الدقيق لنباتات الكوردالين والديفنباخيا

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أجريت هذه الدراسة بمعمل زراعة الأنسجة النباتية بكلية العلوم الزراعية البيئية بالعريش، شمال سيناء، جامعة قناة السويس خلال الفترة من أبريل ٢٠١٣ إلى مارس ٢٠١٥. تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى تحسين بروتوكول الإكثار الدقيق للكوردالين والديفنباخيا من أجل جعل إكثار هذه النباتات مجدي واقتصادي عن طريق التغلب على معدل التضاعف البطيء لطرق الإكثار التقليدية. وقد أوضحت النتائج أن البنزويل أدنين بتركيز ١.٠ مجم/لتر مع ٠.١ مجم/لتر نفتالين حمض الخليك فاق في معظم الحالات كل السيتوكينينات الأخرى مع زيادة معنوية في عدد الأفرع، طول الأفرع الجانبية، عدد الأوراق/فرع وطول الفرع الرئيسي (٢.٥٥، ٣.٩٠ سم، ٧.٣٣ و ٧.٠٤ سم) لنبات الكوردالين و(٢.٣٣، ٤.١٩ سم، ٩.٤٠ و ٦.٣٣ سم) لنبات الديوينباخيا على التوالي خلال مرحلة التأسيس. في حين مرحلة التضاعف أظهرت النتائج أن زيادة تركيز البنزويل أدنين أدى إلى زيادة معنوية في نمو نبات الكوردالين والديوينباخيا مقارنة بالكنترول. وأظهرت النتائج أن إضافة ٢.٠ مجم/لتر بنزويل أدنين مع ٠.١ مجم/لتر نفتالين حمض الخليك سجلت أعلى القيم لعدد الأفرع الجانبية، طول الأفرع الجانبية، عدد الأوراق/فرع وطول الفرع الرئيسي (٢.٨٦، ٥.٥٥ سم، ٩.٤٠ و ٨.٧٧ سم) لنبات الكوردالين في حين (٢.٦٦، ٥.٦٦ سم، ٩.٨٨ و ٨.٦٦ سم) لنبات الديوينباخيا. كما أدت إضافة العرقسوس مع السكروز بتركيزات مختلفة إلى زيادة معنوية لصفات النمو للكوردالين وكان أعلى عدد للأفرع الجانبية، طول الأفرع الجانبية، عدد الأوراق/فرع وطول الفرع الرئيسي (٢.٣٠، ٣.٢٥ سم، ٦.١٥ و ٤.٢٠ سم) تخص إضافة السكروز بتركيز ٣٠ جم/لتر مع العرقسوس بتركيز ٤٠ مجم/لتر مع إضافة ٢.٠ مجم/لتر بنزويل أدنين مع ٠.١ مجم/لتر نفتالين حمض الخليك. على الجانب الآخر عدد الأفرع الجانبية لنبات الديوينباخيا لم تتأثر بإضافة العوامل السابقة. أما بالنسبة لمرحلة التجذير أوضحت النتائج أن نفتالين حمض الخليك كان أحسن الأوكسينات لتشجيع التجذير لكلا من الكوردالين والديوينباخيا بزيادة معنوية جدا لطول الجذور وعدد الجذور في حين لم تكن هناك معنوية في نسبة التجذير. بالإضافة إلى ذلك أدى إضافة نيفتالين حمض الخليك بتركيز ١.٠ مجم/لتر إلى الحصول على أعلى عدد للجذور وطول الجذور (١٠.٠ و ٢١.٣٣ سم على التوالي) للكوردالين و(٨.٠ و ٨.٥٣ سم على التوالي) للديوينباخيا. النباتات التي تم تجذيرها تم أقلتها بنسبة بقاء (٩٥%) لكلا من الكوردالين والديوينباخيا باستخدام خليط من البيت موس، والبرليت، والفرموكوليت، والرمل بمعدل إضافة (١:١:١:١ حجما) قبل نقلها إلى التربة ونمت بنجاح عند زراعتها في الحق.