
STUDY OF SHOOT MULTIPLICATION OF STRAWBERRY (*Fragaria ananassa*)

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Abstract

Effects of different hormonal concentration on multiple shoot formation of RABI Strawberry-3 were studied. Where the explants were runner tips that cultured on MS basal medium supplemented with 6-Benzyl Adenine and Kinetin. The maximum percentage 80% of shoot was obtained from Benzyl Adenine concentrations of 0.5 mg/l and 1.0 mg/l whereas Kinetin concentrations were 1.5 mg/l and 2.0 mg/l separately. More promising result was found by combining two impressive concentrations of each hormone. When MS basal media was supplemented with Kinetin 2.0mg/l + Benzyl Adenine 0.5 mg/l, Kinetin 1.5 mg/l + Benzyl Adenine 0.5 mg/l and Kinetin 1.5 mg/l + Benzyl Adenine 1.0 mg/l respectively then 100% shoots were obtained.

Key words: RABI Strawberry-3, Benzyl Adenine, Kinetin, Shoot formation and Regeneration

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Introduction

Strawberry (*Fragaria ananassa*) is a perennial, stoloniferous herb belongs to the family *Rosaceae*, genus *Fragaria* which is closely related to the genera include *Duchesnea*, the mock strawberry, *Potentilla* and the cinquefoils. *Fragaria* species have nine diploids, two tetraploids, one hexaploid, and four octoploids. Diploids (2n=14) include *F. vesca* Duch., *F. viridis* Duch., *F. nilgerrensis* Schlecht., *F. daltoniana*. J. Gray, *F. nubicola* Lindl. Ex Lacaita., *F. iinumae* Makino, *F. yezoensis* Hara, *F. nipponica* Makino, and *F. mandschurica* (Staudt, 1989). Among the many positive characteristics, the nutritional values of strawberries are nearly perfect. Eight medium strawberries contain more vitamin C than an orange (Driscoll, 2004).

It is also the most widely consumed fruits throughout the world. Strawberry is a rich source of phytochemicals (plant chemicals) of which phenolic compounds predominate. Berry fruits are reported to contain a wide variety of phenolics including hydroxybenzoic and hydroxycinnamic acid derivatives, anthocyanins, flavonols, condensed tannins (proanthocyanidins) and hydrolyzable tannins (Machiex *et al.*, 1990). Studies conducted *in vitro* indicate that berry phenolics have a wide range of biological properties such as anti-cancer, antioxidant, anti-inflammatory and cell regulatory effects (Seeram, 2006a; Seeram and Heber, 2006b).

The micropropagation of strawberry was achieved more than 30 years ago (Boxis, 1999) and now it seems to be a routine task in many commercial laboratories. In general, strawberry can be managed easily under *in vitro* conditions. Meristem tips, generally obtained from runners of virus-free plants are commonly used to establish *in vitro* cultures which are employed for mass propagation or as a source of plant material for regeneration and transformation experiments (Mercado *et al.*, 2007). Numerous studies have been published regarding field behavior of micropropagated strawberry. Several parameters used during the *in vitro* phase that can affect the behavior of micropropagated strawberry in the nursery, e.g. plant genotype, mineral formulation, type and concentration of cytokinin in the medium and the number of subcultures. It is generally recommended not to exceed four to five subcultures to avoid loss of trueness-to type of the propagated material (Faedi *et al.*, 2002). This technique is useful in case of the introduction of new cultivars. Moreover, the storage of tissue cultured propagules requires less space than traditional runner plant and the *in vitro* storage can be initiated at any time during the production cycle (Swartz *et al.*, 1981). Prior experiences with strawberry micropropagation indicate that *in vitro* plants are more uniform, produce higher number of runners, have better survival in the field, and the fruit yield increases in 24% than

plants propagated by the traditional method (Kikas *et al.*, 2006). Thus, plant tissue culture techniques can be applied as an alternative for the traditional plant-breeding methods which are time consuming. By tissue culturing technique of Strawberry explants, there is a chance to establish unique cell lines of Strawberry or somaclonal varieties. Some authors have reported that frequent callus formation as an intermediary phase just prior to somatic embryogenesis or regeneration to protocorms (Tisserat and Jones, 1999; Ishii *et al.*, 1998). Direct regeneration without undesirable callus formation shortens the time period needed for regeneration and reduces the possibility of the occurrence of somaclonal variability (Kosir *et al.*, 2004). The present study was carried out an aim to study multiple shoot regeneration system from runner tips of RABI strawberry-3 for future many advanced biotechnological uses such as efficient and rapid micro-propagation and genetic transformation system in future.

Materials and Methods

This experiment was conducted in Plant Genetic Engineering Laboratory of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, Sylhet-3114, Bangladesh. The details of the materials and methods in this experiment are given below.

Explant materials

Strawberry plantlets of RABI Strawberry-3 were collected from Rajshahi University. Healthy and vigorous runner tips were collected from the strawberry plants, which were used as explants. During transferring bud to solid sterile medium a whitish exudates of bacteria was observed around the base of the explants after 2-3 days and it was complicated further by the latent nature of the contaminants. The exudates were removed by placing the runner tips were placed in autoclaved beaker and washed with sterile distilled water. The runner tips were then kept in 70% of ethanol for 3-5 minutes, followed by washing with autoclaved distilled water for several times. Runner tips were further sterilized by continuous shaking with adding Sodium hypochlorite with 2-3 drops of tween-20 for 12-15 minutes. Surface sterilized runner tips were thoroughly washed five times with autoclaved sterile distilled water. The runner tips were then placed on the sterilized petridishes having sterilized filter paper to remove excess water from the runner tips.

Media preparation and culture of explants

Runner tips were cultured on MS supplemented with specific concentration of growth regulators (BA and Kinetin) followed by the method by Emarah (2008). After surface sterilization apical meristems of 3-5 mm long were isolated and used

as explants. Firstly, the growth regulators were supplemented in the media singly. Then, on the basis of performance two best concentrations were selected from each growth regulators. Surface sterilized runner tips were placed on solid MS media in a laminar airflow cabinet. In each test tube one runner tip was placed. The pH of the media was adjusted to 5.8 ± 2 before autoclaving. After inoculation, the surface sterilized runner tips of RABI Strawberry-3 variety was transferred and maintained in an environmentally controlled growth room for 3 weeks for multiple shoot generation and growth. The cultures were positioned away from continuous light provided by general electric white florescent tubes. Temperature was maintained at $25 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ through the growth period. Multiple shoot generation and growth frequency was recorded 12-15 days after inoculation. Subculture was carried out once in every two weeks with transfer of only the vigorously growing explants. Experiments were replicated three times and forty test tubes with forty runner tips were used per replication for each type.

Frequency of multiple shoot generation was calculated according to the following formula

$$\text{Multiple shoot generation frequency (\%)} = \frac{\text{No. of runner tips produced multiple shoots}}{\text{No. of runner tips cultured}} \times 100$$

Result and Discussion

From the study, a great number of multiple shoot were successfully obtained. MS basal media supplemented with KIN 2.0 mg/l + 1.0 BA mg/l was resulted 100% of shoot formation as well as supplemented with KIN 1.5 mg/l + BA 0.5 mg/l and KIN 1.5 mg/l + BA 1.0 mg/l. Whereas MS basal media provided with KIN 2.0 mg/l + BA 0.5 mg/l showed 80% efficiency.

Addition of adequate levels of BA and Kinetin into a basal medium resulted in prolific multiple shoot generation. Results of the study revealed that multiple shoot generation of strawberry often proceeded on media containing the higher BA and lower kinetin concentrations but either of the lower BA and higher Kinetin concentrations, multiple shoot forms directly. Among the best five of each concentration 4, 4, 1, 0 explants produced multiple shoots at 0.5, 1, 1.5, 2.0 mg/l BA respectively and 1, 2, 4, 4 for 0.5, 1.0, 1.5, 2.0 mg/l Kinetin concentration respectively. By combining two impressive concentrations from each PGRs group 5, 5, 4, 5 explants produced multiple shoots at 2.0 KIN + 0.5 BA mg/l, 1.5 KIN + 0.5 BA mg/l, 2.0 KIN + 1.0 BA mg/l, 1.5 KIN + 1.0 BA mg/l respectively.

Table 1. Effects of BA and KIN on Shoot Formation of RABI Strawberry-3

Hormone	Concentration(mg/l)	% Shoot formation	Observation	Shoot length(cm)
BA	0.5	80%	+++	6±0.9
	1.0	80%	++++	6±1.5
	1.5	20%	+	4±0.3
	2.0	0%	-	0
KIN	0.5	20%	+	4±0.4
	1.0	40%	++	5±0.1
	1.5	80%	++++	7±0.5
	2.0	80%	++++	7±1.2

Here, No multiple shoot = -, Poor multiple shoot = +, Average multiple shoot = ++, Good multiple shoot = +++, Very good multiple shoot = ++++

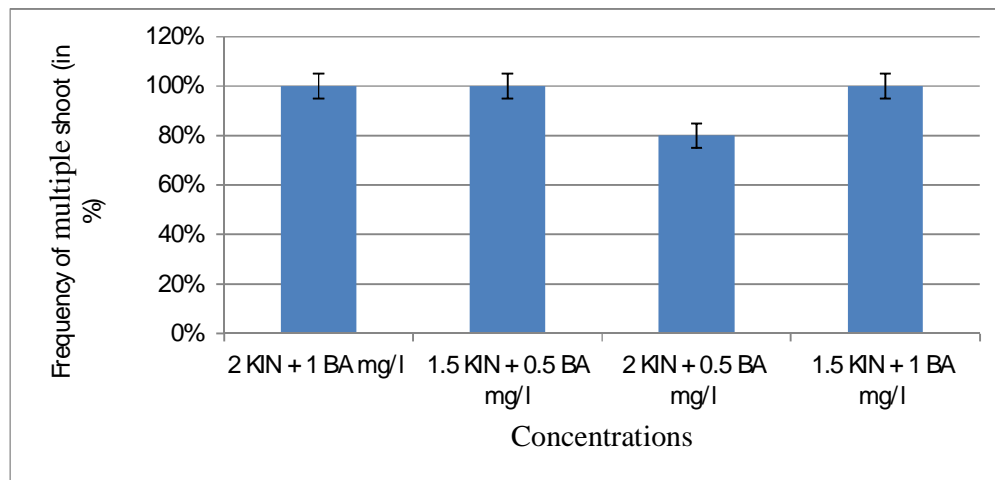


Fig. 1. Promising outcome in combination of two best concentration of BA and KIN

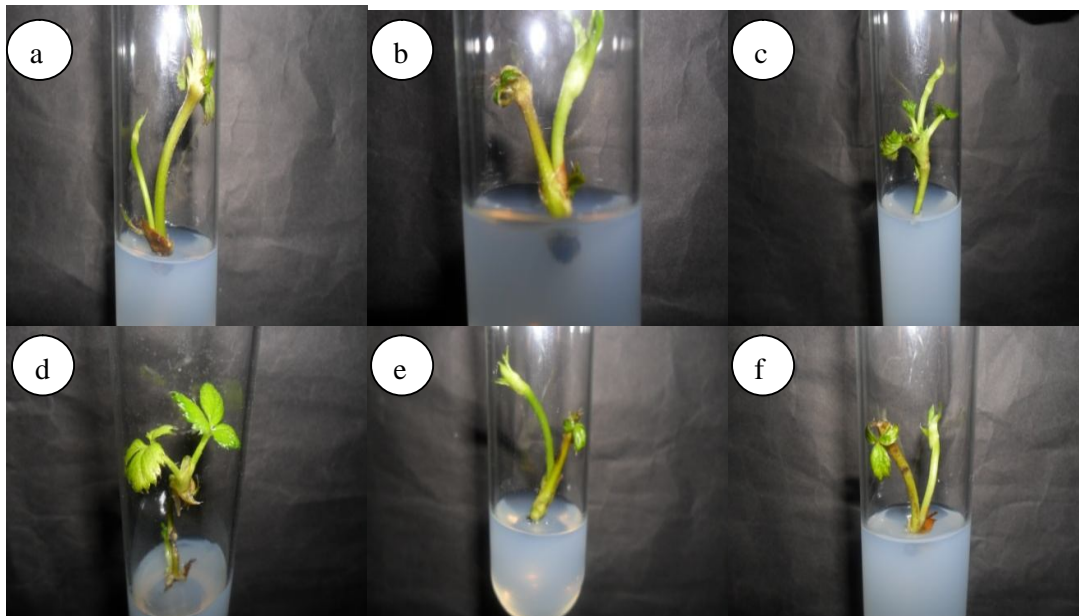


Fig. 2. (a) Shoot proliferation in MS media supplemented with 2.0 mg/l KIN + 0.5 BA mg/l; (b) & (c) Shoot proliferation in MS media supplemented with 1.5 KIN mg/l + 0.5 BA mg/l; (d) & (e) Shoot proliferation in MS media supplemented with 2.0 mg/l KIN + 1.0 BA mg/l; (f) Shoot proliferation in MS media supplemented with 1.5 mg/l KIN + 1.0 BA mg/l

Effects of mineral salts, BA levels and the number of times and explant was subcultured on the regeneration capacity was observed *in vitro* culture of strawberry (Lopez-Aranda, *et al.*, 1994). The field behavior of the regenerates was also tested in the comprehensive investigation. The proposed medium was supplemented with concentration of growth hormone BA (0.5 mg/l, 1.0 mg/l, 1.5 mg/l and 2.0 mg/l) and KIN (0.5 mg/l, 1.0 mg/l, 1.5 mg/l and 2.0 mg/l). Sakila *et al.* (2007) showed that nodal segments of strawberry gave rise to multiple shoots when cultured on MS medium supplemented with different concentration of BA with KIN or GA3. The highest response of shoot multiplication was obtained in MS containing 1.5 mg/l BA + 0.5 mg/l KIN. The regenerated shoot lets were rooted on MS basal medium with different concentrations IBA and IAA. The maximum frequency of rooting and the highest number of roots was produced on medium containing 1.0 mg/l IBA. The plantlets, thus developed were hardened and successfully established in soil. The plants raised through tissue culture exhibited normal growth, flowering and fruit setting.

Conclusion

For multiple shoots formation, lowest concentrations of BA i.e., 0.5 and 1.0 mg/l were outstanding. Combination of high concentrations of KIN i.e., 2.0 and 1.5 mg/l with lower concentrations of BA resulted more effectively than the single cytokinin treatment. As strawberry is still a new crop in Bangladesh so more research should be carried on to further improvement of this crop.

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