

Phytohormones Action on *Fouquieria Splendens* Callogenesis and Organogenesis Processes

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Abstract – It is known that callus can be produced from a single differentiated cell and many callus cells could be totipotent and able to regenerate a whole plant considering that high plasticity is the principal characteristic for their differentiation as a product of the particularly gene expression profiles; produced when the balance between cytokinins and auxins determines the state of differentiation and dedifferentiation. This work analyzed the effect of different actions of two cytokinins: bencil amino purine (BAP) and kinetin (KIN) and the naphthalene acetic acid (NAA) auxin on growth and morphological changes in the desert plant *Fouquieria splendens* callus. There were two evident morphological process determined not only by the Callus Induction Frequency (CIF) obtained, showing a great initial callus induction and after a good callogenesis and organogenesis processes; it also implies an active role in plant morphogenesis of *F. splendens*, by the cytokinin/auxin combination tested, showed by the scanning electron microscopy analysis, where a particularly presence of extracellular matrix surface network was present considering an important morphoregulatory structure during organogenesis process; showing not only a fast induction of calli and also a remarkably effect of growth and differentiation response of this interesting desert plant species.

Keywords – Auxins, Callus Culture, Cytokinins, Fouquieriaceae.

I. INTRODUCTION

Ikeuchi *et al.* [1] defined “callus” to the massive growth of cells and also applied to the disorganized plant cell masses (calli). Steward *et al.* [2] and Nagata and Takebe [3] described that callus can be produced from a single differentiated cell and many callus cells could be totipotent and able to regenerate a whole plant; considering that high plasticity is the principal characteristic for their differentiation. Ikeuchi *et al.* [1] also established that calli are diverse and could be particularly classified based on their macroscopic characteristics. Zimmerman [4] and Frank *et al.* [5] described two principal kinds of calli; one with no apparent organ regeneration called as friable or compact callus and the other that shows some degrees of organ regeneration called rooty, shooty, or embryonic callus. Taking the consideration of Iwase *et al.* [6] about the different types of callus formed in *Arabidopsis thaliana* as a product of the particularly gene expression profiles; this term must include cells with various degrees of differentiation when the balance between auxins and cytokinins determines the state of differentiation and dedifferentiation. Is important to note here the mention of

Skoog and Miller [7] whose conclude: “an intermediate ratio of auxin and cytokinin promotes callus induction; while a high ratio of auxin-to-cytokinin or cytokinin-to-auxin induces root and shoot regeneration, respectively”. Some authors as Jehan *et al.* [8], Shimizu *et al.* [9] and Wang *et al.* [10] reported that the phytohormonal composition of the medium is the most important factor for *in vitro* regeneration; Boltenkov *et al.* [11] also noted that the morphogenetic capacity of explant tissues can be induced by varying the composition of phytohormones in the medium for the production of organogenic callus and differentiation via organogenesis or embryoidogenesis. Based on it finally, phytohormone concentrations in culture medium will be the critical point for the control of growth and morphogenesis [12], [13], [14]. This work analyzed the effect of different phytohormone actions on growth and morphological changes in the desert plant *Fouquieria splendens* callus.

II. MATERIAL AND METHODS

A. *Fouquieria Splendens* Callus Culture and Development

Branches of the desert plant *Fouquieria splendens*, were collected from the Botanical Garden of the Facultad de Estudios Superiores, Iztacala (FES)-UNAM, these were maintained in water 15 days for the development of leaves. Leaves were surface-sterilized with sodium hypochlorite solution (10%) for 90 seconds, rinsed three times in sterile distilled water and leaf explants were obtained aseptically cutting fractions of 1cm². Five explants were placed separately in baby food flasks with Magenta SIGMA caps containing 25mL of Murashige and Skoog (MS) ¼ salts medium [15] supplemented with 30 g/L of sucrose and 3 g/L phytigel. The treatments consider the presence or absence of phosphate salt and different phytohormones combination as follows: “MSA” Medium: 42.5mg/L NaH₂PO₄ + 10mg/L BAP (Bencil Amino Purine) + 1mg/L NAA (Naphthalene Acetic Acid), “MSB” Medium: 42.5mg/L NaH₂PO₄ + 1mg/L KIN (Kinetin) + 5mg/L NAA, “MSC” Medium: 10mg/L BAP + 1mg/L NAA, “MSD” Medium: 1mg/L KIN + 5mg/L NAA and “MSE” Medium: 1.5mg/L KIN + 1mg/L NAA. Incubated at 28°C with photoperiod of 16 h light /8 h dark with a fluorescent Phillips T8 32 Watts 5000°K lamp, all the experiments were performed by 36 replicates and growth was analyzed at 35 days.

B. Analysis of Growth and Morphological Changes of

Fouquieria Splendens Callus

As Visarada *et al.* [16] mention that calli variation is based on their morphology and could be classified to facilitate the identification of changes that conduce their development or plants regeneration; in this study, explants modified or with callus development were recovered at the final time and analyzed by visual classification according to the next code: without response (WR), chlorotic and without response (CL/WR), initial callus and chlorotic (IC/CL), initial callus (IC), callus (C), abundant callus (AC), green callus (GC) and abundant green callus (AGC). Also, the Callus Induction Frequency (CIF), was determined according to Ali *et al.* [17] as follows: CIF = Number of total calli produced / Total number of explants x 100.

Selected fractions were prepared for scanning electron microscopy (SEM) for the analysis of morphological changes induced in *F. splendens* callus according to Corona-Álvarez *et al.* [18] as follows: samples were cut into 4 or 5mm pieces, fixed in 2.5% glutaraldehyde for 1h at room temperature (27°C), then, washed three times in a phosphate buffer, postfixed in 1% OsO₄ for 1h at room temperature, washed and dipped into distilled water for three times. The samples were undergone a series of dehydration processes: 30 % ethanol for 10 min; 40 % ethanol for 10 min; 50 % ethanol for 10 min; 60 % ethanol for 10 min; 70 % ethanol for 10 min; 80 % ethanol for 10 min; 90 % ethanol for 10 min and finally 100 % ethanol for 10 min (three times). The material was dried in the critical point dryer apparatus, mounted and sputter-coated with gold in an ion coater for 60 seconds. Finally, the samples were ready for viewing under field scanning electron microscope JSM 5800 LV for their examination and photography.

C. Statistical Analysis

All data obtained were analyzed by one-way analysis of variance and the mean differences were compared applying a Tukey-Kramer Method using the statistics program Graph Pad Instat Ver. 2.03. Principal Component Analysis (PCA) was done with matrix data set of all the experimental conditions and callus categories; employing the Pearson correlation, with PAST (Paleontological Statistics Software Package) Ver. 2.17b.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Growth and Efficiency of *F. Splendens* Callus

Is important to note according to Dodds and Robert [19] and Aitchison *et al.* [20] that the response of plants in culture from explants, proliferate as a mass of relatively undifferentiated tissue called callus, forming by an amorphous mass of loosely arranged thin walled parenchyma cells from the parent tissue as a result of dramatic changes in the appearance and metabolism of the plant cells. Table 1 shows the total evaluation of *F. splendens* explants response regarding to the medium tested; where the number of WR explants was less in all the conditions MSA: 17±1.16, MSB: 4±0.57, MSC: 22±0.81 and MSE: 21±1.11, with a statistical significance only between MSB and MSC (p<0.05), giving a good response

of this plant species in this culture.

Table 1. Total evaluation of *Fouquieria splendens* explants development

MS	WR	CL/WR	IC/CL	IC	C	AC	GC	AGC	Total
A	8	9	10	3	0	0	11	0	41
B	4	0	0	6	4	11	0	13	38
C	16	6	14	15	0	0	0	0	51
D	1	0	0	10	0	3	0	16	30
E	21	0	0	21	0	2	8	20	72

Where: without response (WR), chlorotic and without response (CL/WR), initial callus and chlorotic (IC/CL), initial callus (IC), callus (C), abundant callus (AC), green callus (GC) and abundant green callus (AGC).

Is important to note as Slesak *et al.* [21] mention that the intensity and frequency of callogenesis depends on the media culture; thus: “calli obtained on media supplied with different phytohormones were morphologically different, light green, soft, well hydrated, semi-translucent and mucilaginous and consisted of loose, large and elongate cells and/or dry compact friable calli that were of different colors”. Figure 1 shows the appearance of callus grown in MSD (Figure 1a) and in MSE (Figure 1b) media, showing some characteristics as these authors noted. Table 2 resumes the response of CIF for the *in vitro* callogenesis of *F. splendens*, focusing only this response considering the callus classification of: IC (MSA: 13±0.89, MSB: 10±1.73, MSC: 29±1.28 and MSE: 29±0.70, without statistical significance between experimental conditions), AC (without statistical significance between experimental conditions) and GAC (MSB: 13±2.08, MSD: 27±1.14 and MSE: 20±1.24, with a statistical significance between MSE medium to the others, at p<0.01). IC obtained a good percentage of CIF in all medium culture tested: MSC (56.9%) > MSE (40.2%) > MSD (33.3%) > MSB (26%) > MSA (24.3%); even MSC medium showed a great initial callus induction; calli do not growth and turning brown, dark and necrotic at the final time (35 days).



Fig. 1. *In vitro* *Fouquieria splendens* callus development: 1a) grown under MSD medium and 1b) grown under MSE medium.

Table 2. CIF (%) obtained for each *F. splendens* calli classification

MS	IC	AC	GAC
A	24.4	26.8	0
B	26.3	28.9	34.2
C	56.9	0	0
D	33.3	10	90
E	40.3	2.77	27.8

MSA medium has the same phytohormones concentration plus phosphate salt and promote the production of

abundant calli. Comparing MSB and MSD media with the same phytohormones but phosphate salt only in MSB; even both conditions showed high values of CIF of the three callogenesis classification, the best response with green abundant calli was obtained in MSD medium (90%). MSE medium that contains 1.5mg/L KIN + 1mg/L NAA showed a discrete callogenesis response according to the CIF obtained between IC, AC and GAC.

Figure 2 analyzed the callus classification and culture media tested by PCA, were negative Component 1 values (65.6%) indicates a particular relationship between GAC and “MSB and MSD” media. In this figure there is also a particularly positive association between IC and “MSC and MSE” media and a negative response between WR explants and MSA medium, these associations were agree with ICF values noted in Table 2. Smolenskaya *et al.* [22] reported that the presence of particularly growth regulators and their concentrations are important factors for the maintaining of callus lines in cultures; which is agree with Lakshmanan *et al.* [23] showing that the effect of growth regulator on tissue cultures can vary according to the chemical nature of the compound, plant species, type of culture and even the developmental state of the explant.

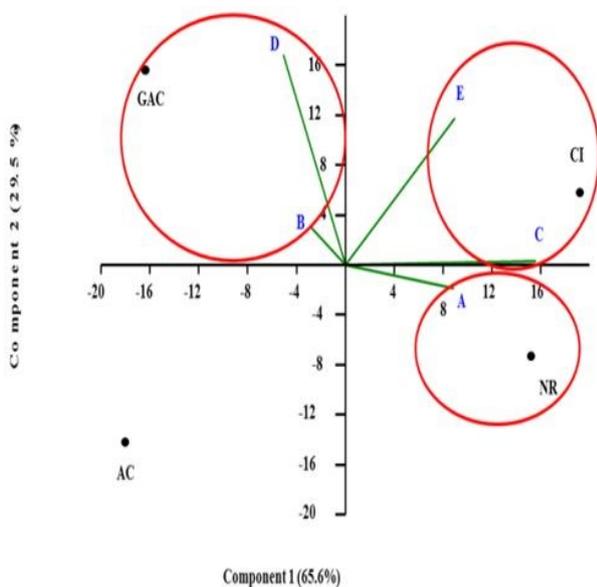


Fig. 2. Principal component analysis grouping the *Fouquieria splendens* callus categories and experimental conditions.

In this study, the nature of phytohormones assayed in *F. splendens* cultures in the media tested: MSD and MSE the presence of NAA and KIN was determinant. Boltenkov *et al.* [11] commentaries about the suggestion that different morphogenetic capacity of callus tissues induced on different media was determined by their “hormonal prehistory,” were agree to Burgess [24] considering that initial culture conditions defining the morphogenetic response of tissues depending on the phytohormonal composition of the medium. It is important to note that as Howell *et al.* [25] established, the presence of cytokinins in medium is a prerequisite for plant regeneration in tissue culture, since these phytohormones are required for the

expression of genes, that is agree with the explanation of Barrueto *et al.* [26], Echeverrigary and Fracaro [27] and Meftahizade *et al.* [28] considering that cytokinins especially at the high concentration promotes apical dominance thus shoot formation and auxins promotes also shoot elongation.

In this study, the appearance and growth of calli was agreed with Meftahizade *et al.* [28], whose mention that the increase of cytokinins like kinetin, induced calli with hyperhydricity; property that is characterized by a “slightly swollen, lighter green and translucent tissue” and according to Gopi and Vatsala [29] regarding to the note that exclusive presence of auxins in the medium, even which was its concentration, are not enough to induce callus formation. Thus both phytohormones combination with synergistic effects could induce the callus development and as these authors noted, they induce more friable callus and reduce the number of days taken for callus induction, favoring the fast growth of them. Shamsardakani *et al.* [30] reported that the combination of auxins and cytokinins can induce compact callus and Kitamura *et al.* [31], also mention that usually roots that formed from calli supplied with NAA were hairy, but those directly formed from leaf explants without NAA were thick.

B. Induced Morphogenesis in *F. Splendens* Callus

Two considerations must note at first; one of them is that finally according to Rueb *et al.* [32] and Lee *et al.* [33], many auxins and cytokinins present in media promoted highest regeneration frequency on MS medium containing 2 mg/L NAA and KIN between 1 to 4 mg/L for rice plants; meanwhile Din *et al.* [34] concluded about it that these phytohormones could interact through synergistic, antagonistic and additive mechanisms of tissue cultures, promoting the development of cells to callogenesis and/ or organogenesis. The second consideration is regarding to Delporte *et al.* [35], notation; these authors established with good genotypes competence for “callogenesis” characterized by undifferentiated cellular proliferation, considering calli as “non-morphogenetic” with white, limpid, watery and friable appearance and for “morphogenesis” considering the calli white to greenish-white, compact and smooth, plane or dome-shaped or nodular appearance with the formation of densely proliferating cells, as in this study, where Figures 3 to 6 show the appearance of calli developed in MSE and MSD media tested. For both media culture, there was an obvious development as SEM observations by Konieczny *et al.* [36] in *Triticum aestivum* where at the beginning of its culture, calli presented a smooth surface and were covered solely with large oval or oblong cells of parenchymatous nature and also some of them were nodular in appearance, forming numerous clusters of small, tightly packed meristematic cells; also Popielarska-Konieczna *et al.* [37] mention with the appearance of a discontinuous amorphous layer of complex non-cellular material outside the outer cell wall of the cells on the callus surface; similarly to the results obtained by Popielarska *et al.* [38] and Popielarska - Konieczna *et al.* [39], [40], on kiwifruit organogenesis with the presence of a membranous layer covering the outer cell wall.

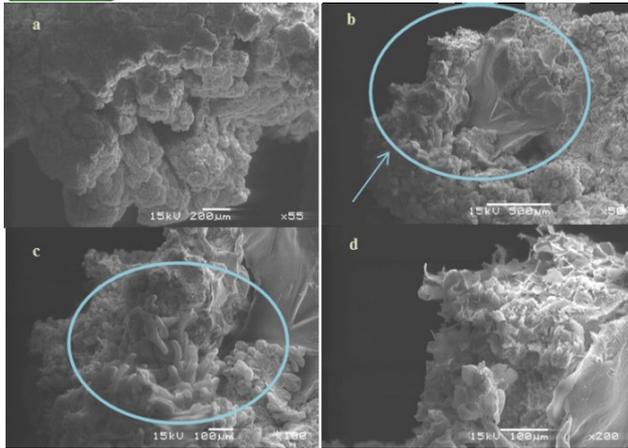
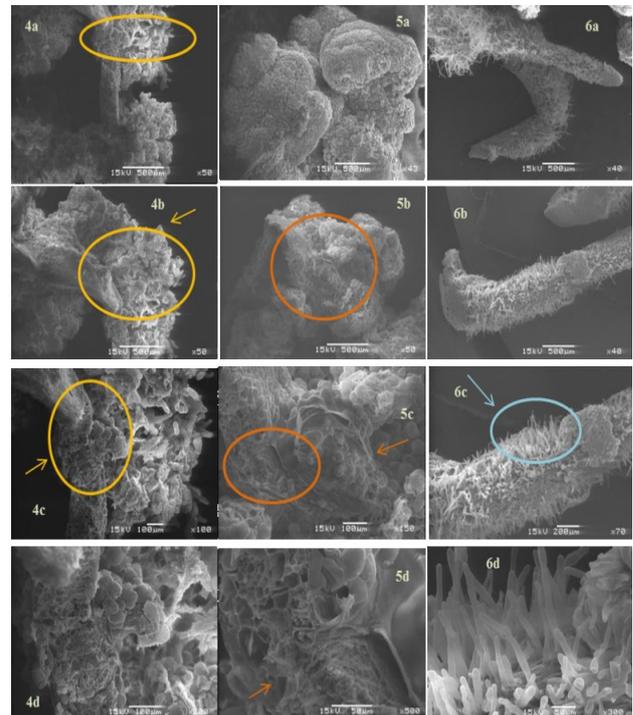


Fig. 3. Scanning electronic micrographs of selected *Fouquieria splendens* callus grown in MSE medium; where sequence 3a to 3d shows: a) general observation of non-morphogenic callus (x55); b) appearance of the extracellular matrix surface network covering some cell aggregates (x50); c) appearance of large cells near the extracellular matrix surface network (x100); d) massive surface area (x200).

These authors noted the formation of extracellular strands, fibrils and/or a continuous layer over callus cells accompanies the induction of morphogenesis in many plants cultured *in vitro*. This structure, which is referred to as extracellular matrix (ECM) established by Samaj *et al.* [41] or extracellular matrix surface network (ECMSN) [42], has been found during the early stages of somatic embryogenesis and organogenesis. The exact role of this structure is still not known, but its regulatory and coordinating functions during the early stages of morphogenesis have been suggested [36], [39], [43], [44], [45]. These authors noted that the surface of non-regenerative callus derived from the cultivar of *Helianthus tuberosus* var. Albik was covered with a membranous structure, similar to the ECMSN that has been reported in plant tissue cultures of different species. It is important to note, although the precise function of the ECMSN has not been established as Chapman *et al.* [46] mention; significant roles are reported for this structure, it participates in coordination of early developmental stages of somatic embryogenesis because its formation could be produced by stress response of plant tissues that is triggered by specific culture conditions and that covering callus with extracellular material could provide protection against external factors, thus, its role cannot be generalized but authors concluded that its presence on the surface of cultured *in vitro* tissues possess a morphogenetic competence [37], [41], [47], [48].

Finally, as Popielarska - Konieczna *et al.* [40] reported the ECMSN plays an important morphoregulatory role during organogenesis, implying an active role in plant morphogenesis, for *F. splendens*, the cytokinin/auxin combination, defined the organogenesis process at 35 days of callus growth, with the evidence showed in Figure 4, where the differentiation of mesophyll cells from the original leaf explants in the sequence of Figures 4a to 4d, was similar to the reported by Konieczny *et al.* [36] in

Triticum aestivum. In *F. splendens* explants cultured in MSD medium, callus morphogenesis derived to early shoots showed in the sequence in Figures 5a to 5d and hairy roots presented in the sequence in Figures 6a to 6d as an evidence of direct organogenesis.



Figs. 4, 5 and 6. Scanning electronic micrographs of selected *Fouquieria splendens* callus grown in MSD medium; where sequences 4a to 4d shows: 4a) a general view of the original explant (arrow) and at the upper extreme the initial dedifferentiation of cells (x50); 4b) shows a detail of the upper zone with a differentiation of mass cells (x50); 4c) a distinguish differentiation zone of mass cells more closely (arrow, x100); 4d) mass aggregates totally differentiated. Sequence of figures 5a to 5d shows: 5a) a general view of a shoot derived by organogenesis process (x43); 5b) particularly detail of the extracellular matrix surface network covering the cell mass forming a plate (x50); 5c) transversal section of parenchyma cells conforming the early shoot of *F. splendens* (x150); 5d) parenchyma cells detail with their tiny cell walls (x500). Sequences of figures 6a to 6d shows: 6a) a general view of a root derived by organogenesis process (x40); 6b) root zones clearly showed with a membranous material covering cells of root tip (x40); 6c) details of the root hairs zone (x70); 6d) large root hairs (x300).

IV. CONCLUSION

In this work, the morphological changes of *Fouquieria splendens* callus were determined and showed that there was a complex response by the active participation of kinetin and naphthalene acetic acid at first, giving a callogenesis response and finally a direct organogenesis process with a fast induction of them in 35 days and a remarkably effect on the growth and differentiation response of this interesting desert plant species.

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