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## RESEARCH ARTICLE

### IMPACT OF VARIOUS ANTIBIOTICS ON REGENERATION EFFICIENCY IN *BRASSICA JUNCEA*

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#### ABSTRACT

A protocol has been developed to facilitate regeneration and *Agrobacterium* mediated genetic transformation using antibiotics in regeneration of cotyledonary petiole and hypocotyls explants of *Brassica juncea* cv. NRCHB-101. Three antibiotics viz. Kanamycin (kan), Cefatoxime (Cef) and Hygromycin (hygro) have been used in this study during shoot regeneration along with the growth regulators. The antibiotic Cefatoxime overpowered the growth of *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* at minimum concentration (250 mg/l) whereas kanamycin and hygromycin not only eliminates the traces of excess *Agrobacterium* but also prevents the occurrence of false-positive shoots at the concentration of 20 mg/L. The present inquiry gives an account on the effectiveness of Kan, Cef and Hygro for regeneration and *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*-mediated genetic transformation in *Brassica juncea* cv. NRCHB-101.

#### INTRODUCTION

*Agrobacterium tumefaciens*-mediated genetic transformation is the most recurrent and inexpensive method, out of all the methods used for genetic transformation. Gene of interest can be transferred to desired plant using genetic transformation. In almost all the economically important *Brassica* species transformation systems has been developed such as *B. juncea* (Sushma *et al.*, 2017) *B. napus* (Rhian *et al.*, 2018), *B. nigra* (Gupta *et al.*, 1993), *B. oleracea* (Ravanfar *et al.*, 2017), *B. carinata* (Babic *et al.*, 1998) and *B. rapa* (Bhaskar *et al.*, 2016). A lot of factors are responsible for the efficiency of gene transfer like age of explants, type of explants, genotype *etc.* Transformation efficiency reduces after co-cultivation due to growth of *Agrobacterium*. Thus it is necessary to impede further growth and multiplication of *Agrobacterium* on plant tissue culture media, after co-cultivation of explants. For this purpose various antibiotics are used to inhibit and impede the growth of *Agrobacterium*. These antibiotics should be highly effective, stable, and economical with no negative effect on plant regeneration. There is significant evidence that antibiotics adversely affect the growth and performance of plants (Liu *et al.*, 2013). Use of antibiotics negatively affects the regeneration of explants of *Brassica* (Minden *et al.*, 2017). Cef is a broad spectrum antibiotic which provides protection against a wide range of bacteria. It block the mucopeptide

biosynthesis of cell wall by inhibiting the cross linking of peptidoglycan by binding and inactivating of transpeptidases.

It is effective in suppressing *Agrobacterium*. Hygromycin and kanamycin are aminoglycoside that kills bacterial cells by inhibiting protein synthesis. The purpose of this study was to check the toxic level of cefotaxime, hygromycin and kanamycin on cultured explants (cotyledonary petiole and hypocotyl) of *Brassica juncea*.

#### MATERIALS AND METHODS

Seeds of *Brassica juncea* (L.) Czern. & Coss. variety NRCHB-101 were obtained from National research centre on Rapeseed-Mustard (NRCRM), Bharatpur, Rajasthan. The seeds were surface sterilized with 0.1% mercuric chloride (HgCl<sub>2</sub>) solution for 3-4 min. and rinsed 3-4 times (for approx. 2-3 min) with distilled water. Water was drained completely and seeds were dried on sterile paper towel. Then the surface sterilized seeds were germinated aseptically on MS basal medium (Murashige and Skoog, 1962). 5 days old *in vitro* grown seedlings were used as the source of explants *i.e.* cotyledonary petiole and hypocotyls (0.5–0.8cm). Different concentrations of antibiotics *viz.* Cef (0 – 400 mg/l), Kan (0 – 40 mg/l) and Hygro (0 – 40 mg/l) were added to shoot induction medium containing MS + 2.0 mg/L BAP + 0.2 mg/l NAA to study the effect of antibiotics on shoot regeneration. Pre-cultured explants were subjected to co-cultivation, after infecting them with *A. tumefaciens* LBA4404 harboring pCAMBAR. *chi11*. After two days of co-cultivation, the explants were shifted onto shoot induction media

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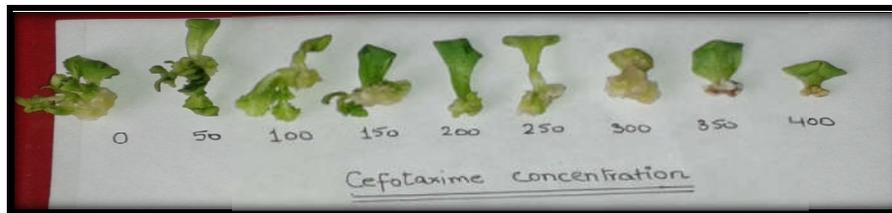
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supplemented with different concentrations of antibiotics. All the cultures obtained were maintained at  $25 \pm 2$  °C, 60% relative humidity, 16 /8 hrs of photo/dark period along with cool fluorescent lights at an intensity of  $30 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ .

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In the present study the effect of antibiotics (Hygromycin, Cefotaxime and Kanamycin) on regeneration of *Brassica juncea* cv. NRCHB-101. Antibiotic sensitivity was observed in explants *i.e.* cotyledonary petiole and hypocotyls of *Brassica juncea*. Both the explants exhibited high sensitivity to hygromycin and kanamycin even at low concentrations. The non-transformed tissues are unable to survive on selection medium retaining antibiotic. It was observed that in absence of antibiotic in the medium the regeneration occurred was highest while after adding the antibiotics in the medium regeneration frequency lowered since it supported the growth of putative transgenic explants only.

effect of different cefotaxime concentrations has been investigated independently on the regeneration potential of *Brassica species*. Cefotaxime not only eliminates the traces of bacteria from the culture but it also has capability to elevate the growth of explant, regeneration and embryogenesis in *in vitro* cultures (Danilova and Dolgikh, 2004; Kaur *et al.*, 2008). In *Brassica* explants, no augment was observed in shoot regeneration prospective on medium supplemented with different cefotaxime concentrations. Similar results were reported by Borrelli *et al.* (1999) where cefotaxime did not affected growth of callus in wheat. In *Brassica juncea* maximum shoot regeneration was attained on the shoot regeneration medium supplemented with 250 mg/L cefotaxime concentration in regeneration of cotyledonary petiole and hypocotyl explants (Sharma *et al.*, 2004; Singh *et al.*, 2009; Bhuiyan *et al.*, 2011). Increased concentration of cefotaxime (*i.e.* beyond 250 mg/L) illustrated reduced transformation frequency and browning of explants followed by death of explants. The data on effect of Cef on regeneration of cotyledonary petiole and hypocotyl explants are shown in (Fig 3).



(a)



(b)



(c)

**Figure 1. Effect of antibiotics on Shoot regeneration of *Brassica* explants. (a) Cefotaxime (b) Kanamycin (c) Hygromycin**

### Effect of Cefotaxime

Effect of Cefotaxime (0-400 mg/l) was studied on bacterial suppression and regeneration ability of cotyledonary petiole and hypocotyl. The percentage survival of explants was slashed gradually from 100 to 400 mg/l. Normal shoot induction percentage of explant was observed at 250 mg/l (Fig. 1). While No shoot induction was seen at 300-400 mg/l. At 300-400 mg/l concentrations browning of callus was observed. (Fig. 1). The cefotaxime contains 6-aminopenicillanic acid, phenylacetic acid and phenylmalonic acid in the b-Lactam ring and the side chain. At high concentration it causes loss of phytohormone balance which results in reduced regeneration and transformation efficiencies (Ogavwa *et al.*, 2007). The

### Effect of Kanamycin

The data on effect of Kan on regeneration on cotyledonary petiole and hypocotyl explants are shown in (Fig. 2). Different concentrations of Kan (0-50 mg/L) were added to the SIM. Almost no shoot induction was observed at concentrations above 20mg/L. Browning of explants started beyond 20mg/L. (Fig.1). Kanamycin resistance gene (*nptII*), which confers resistance against kanamycin is the most prevalently used selectable marker for transforming plants. Kanamycin sulfate is an aminoglycoside bacteriocidal antibiotic which also inhibits protein synthesis in bacterial cells. Selection is an important step during transformation to avoid formation of escapes. In control medium the explants exhibited appropriate

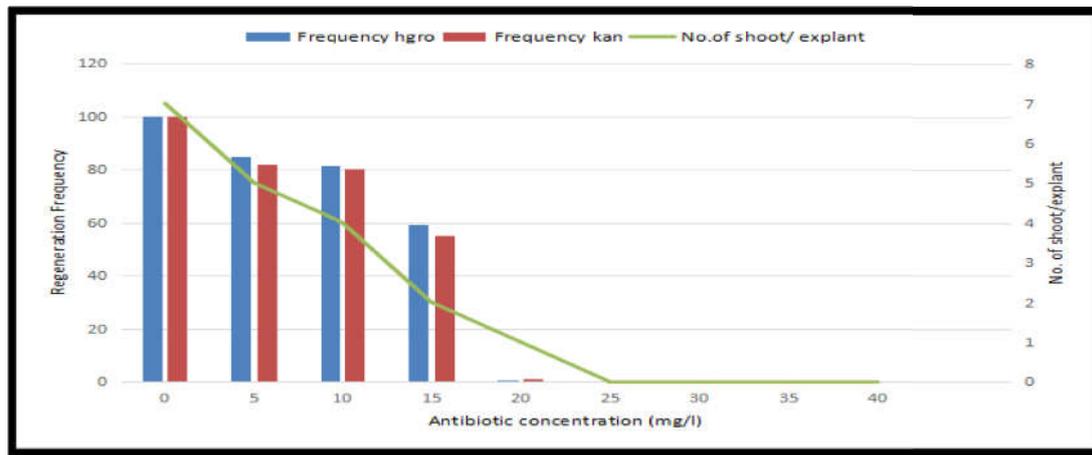


Figure 2. Effect of antibiotics (Kanamycin, Hygromycin) on regeneration potential of *Brassica juncea*

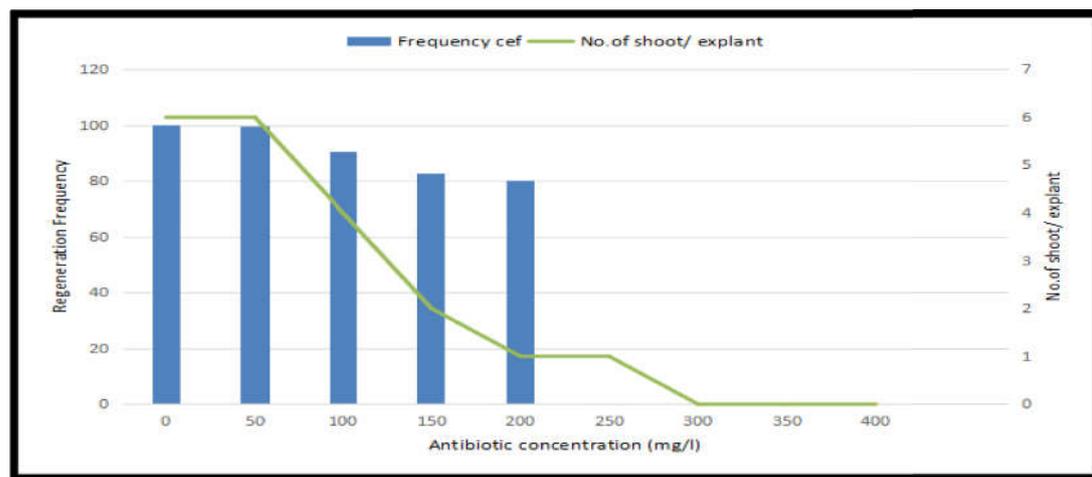


Figure 3. Effect of antibiotic (Cefotaxime) on regeneration potential of *Brassica juncea*

growth, while on selection media the color of explants changed from green to pale yellow and finally turn out to be brown after a few days even at low antibiotic concentration in *Brassica oleracea* (Kumar *et al.*, 2017). Most of the workers reported 20 mg/L of kanamycin totally inhibit shoot regeneration from control set of explants in *Brassica juncea* (Sharma *et al.*, 2004; Singh *et al.*, 2009; Chakrabarty *et al.*, 2002). 25 mg/L inhibits shoot induction in cotyledonary petiole and hypocotyls (Babic *et al.*, 1998; Prasad *et al.*, 2000), 30mg/L inhibits shoot regeneration of *Brassica species* (Chikkara *et al.*, 2012; Wang *et al.*, 2005) and 50 mg/L inhibits shoot regeneration of *Brassica oleracea* (Deng-Xia *et al.*, 2011; Sharma and Srivastava, 2017; Kumar and Srivastava, 2016b).

### Effect of Hygromycin

The data on effect of Hygro on regeneration on cotyledonary petiole and hypocotyl explants are shown in (Fig. 2). Different concentrations of Hygro (0-50 mg/L) were added to the SIM. Almost no shoot induction was observed at concentrations above 20mg/L. Browning of explants started after 20mg/L. (Fig.1). Hygromycin B is found to be more efficient in selection of putative transgenics as compared to other antibiotics (Song *et al.*, 2012; Eady and Lister, 1998). Hygromycin B is an aminoglycoside, which causes mistranslation and interference with protein translocation thereby inhibiting protein synthesis (Gonzalez *et al.*, 1978). Hygromycin B is extremely toxic to the plant cells (Waldron *et al.*, 1985). A number of successful transformation protocols have been reported using Hyg as selectable maker in various monocot and dicot plants (Meng *et al.*, 2007). According to

Dutta *et al.* (2008) shoot regeneration efficiency of untransformed leaf pieces of *Brassica juncea* was lowered drastically with an increase in the hygromycin concentration *i.e.* from  $90 \pm 2.9\%$  to  $10 \pm 0.4\%$  at 20 mg/l and to  $1.1 \pm 0.1\%$  at 30 mg/l concentration of hygromycin. Kong *et al.* (2009) also observed that transformation efficiency did not correspond with the regeneration frequencies of the untransformed explants. The untransformed cells get killed on selection media in such a way that they become noxious to adjoining transformed cells, ensuing in inhibition of the complete explant. Similar results were reported by Liu *et al.* (2015) according to which the regeneration frequency of the surviving explants were considerably declined with increasing concentration of hygromycin from 2-5 mg/L. Bhuiyan *et al.* (2011) and Sanimah *et al.* (2010) reported decline in regeneration frequency of the explants with the increase in hygromycin concentration and at the concentration 15-20 and 20 mg/L respectively no regeneration was observed.

### Conclusion

Selection and detection of transformed cells from culture are crucial steps of genetic transformation which are beneficial in upgrading the transformation efficiency. However we observed that the regeneration percentage is intensely affected by the presence of antibiotics. In the case of *Brassica juncea*, antibiotic is to be used at a low concentration and adding up the second antibiotic completely hampers the regeneration process. This proposes the necessity to develop antibiotic marker free selection protocols to amplify the regeneration process so as to increase the yield.

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