

EFFECT OF PHENYLALANINE ON PRODUCTION OF FLAVONOIDS IN TISSUE CULTURE

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ABSTRACT

Unorganized cultures of medicinally useful plants *C. pendulus* and *T. cordifolia* were established on MS medium supplemented with suitable combination and concentrations of growth regulators, using nodal explant in *C. pendulus* and inflorescence explant in *T. cordifolia*. Small amount of these tissues were transferred to fresh MS medium supplemented with four concentrations of dl- β -Phenylalanine separately. Tissues were harvested at different age intervals and their growth indices were calculated. PTLC, Spectrophotometry and infra-red spectral studies were used for qualitative and quantitative estimation of flavonoids. Presence of Kaempferol and Quercetin was confirmed in both the plant species and significantly higher in calli than normal plant parts. All flavonoids individually as well as total flavonoids content showed gradual increase in amount present in tissue grown on control (MS) to tissue fed with certain amount of mg PA/100ml medium. It was sufficiently higher than amount estimated in tissues grown on standardized MS medium.

KEYWORDS: Medicinal plants, Flavonoids, MS medium, dl- β -Phenylalanine

INTRODUCTION

Nature has provided a rich store house of herbal remedies to cure all mankind's ailments. A number of plants yielding drugs from ancient time to till now are being employed for large scale commercial production of the respective metabolites especially secondary metabolites used as medicines in remedy of several severe ailments.

Flavonoids, one of the secondary metabolites, are water soluble phenolic glycosides. They have multiple biological effect including antioxidant, anticarcinogenic, anti-inflammatory and free radical scavenging abilities etc. Their contribution to physiological function such as seed maturation and dormancy has already established (Brenda,1998) . Presence of flavonoids has been reported from many plant species like *Corchorus depressus*, *Fagonia cretica*, *Citrullus colocynthis*, *Lycium barbarum* (Harsh et al. 1983), *Passiflora palmeri* (Ulu Belen et al.,1984), *Sophora griffithi* and *Goebelia pachycarpa* (Muminova et al., 2006) .

Amino acid phenylalanine act as a precursor and play important role in flavonoid biosynthesis. Effect of dl- β -phenylalanine on flavonoids production has been studied in tissue culture of *Tribulus alatus* and *Lycium barbarum* (Jit and Shekhawat ,1985), *Seetzenia orientalis* (Sethia ,1988) , *Calligonum polygonoides* and *Lasiurus sindicus* (Bhojak , 1991), *Paganum harmala* (Badia,1999), *Vigna aconitifolia* (Tyagi,2002) *Withania somnifera* (Bains,2002) *Ailanthus excelsa* (Rao,2007), *Adhatoda vasica* (Deepa , 2009).

The present paper shows that the effect of incorporation of dl- β -phenylalanine in cultures of *C. pendulus* and *T. cordifolia* has been studied with respect to flavonoids production in the cultures.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

Plants namely *Cocculus pendulus* (Falor) and *Tinospora cordifolia* (Heartleafmoonseed) were collected from the local areas. Plant parts (stem, leaves and flowers) were separated, dried and powdered for analysis of flavonoids by **Subramanian and Nagarajan (1969)** method.

Regarding *in vitro* studies various explants were used to initiate callusing. Explants presoaked in 0.1% liquid detergent for 30 minutes, were washed with running tap water and then surface sterilized with 0.1 % (w/v) mercuric chloride for 3 minutes followed by 2 or 3 rinses of sterile distilled water.

Murashige and Skoog's medium (1962) supplemented with various concentrations and combinations of growth hormones were used. Calli were maintained for six months by frequent subculturing at intervals of 6 to 8 weeks at $26 \pm 1^\circ \text{C}$, 55% relative humidity and diffused light conditions (3000lux). Growth Indices (GI) of tissues were calculated at 2,4,6,8 and 10 weeks time intervals.

Tissues grown on MS medium supplemented with various concentrations of phenylalanine were harvested at maximum GI, dried, powdered, weighed and extracted for quantitative estimation of flavonoids. The experiments was carried out in five replicates.

EXTRACTION PROCEDURE

Each of the dried and powdered sample was soxhlet extracted (**Subramanina and Nagarajan, 1969**) in 80% ethanol. Each of the extract was concentrated in vacuo and re- extracted with petroleum ether (40-60° C, Fraction I), ethyl ether (Fraction II) and ethylacetater (Fraction III) in succession. Ethyl ether (Fraction II) was used for determining free flavonoid contents whereas the ethyl acetate (Fraction III) was used for bound flavonoid determination.

Fraction third of each of the test sample was hydrolyzed by refluxing with 7% sulphuric acid (10 ml/gm residue) for two hours. The mixture was filtered and the filtrate was extracted with ethyl acetate in separating funnel. The ethyl acetate layer (upper layer) was washed with distilled water to neutrality dried in vacuo and analyzed for bound flavonoids.

QUANTITATIVE ESTIMATION

Quantitative estimation of the identified flavonoids was carried out calorimetrically following the method of **Kariyon et al. (1953)** and **Nagasaki et al. (1975)** in case of quercetin and Mabry et al. (1970) in case of kaempferol.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Secondary metabolites are very specific in plants and even in the plant parts. There are many chemicals or compounds which are treated as the precursors of these compounds.

Growth indices (GI) of unorganized tissues of both *C. pendulus* and *T. cordifolia* were calculated on standardized MS medium along with different concentrations of growth hormones and standardized MS medium supplemented with different concentrations of dl- β - phenylalanine separately. GI of callus was found to be gradually increased from standardized MS medium and maximum (6.55) with 75 mg/100 ml phenylalanine fed medium in *C. pendulus* and standardized MS medium to 25 and maximum (8.14) with 50mg/100ml phenylalanine fed medium in *T. cordifolia*. GI of callus decreased from 75 to 100 mg/100 ml phenylalanine

fed in *C.pendulus* and continuously 50 to 75 and then 100mg/100ml phenylalanine fed in *T. cordifolia*. Maximum GI was observed at the age of eight weeks old tissues fed with different concentrations of phenylalanine as shown in table 1.1. Hence eight weeks old tissues supplemented with four concentrations of phenylalanine (PA) were selected for qualitative and quantitative analysis and comparison of flavonoids with that of tissues grown on normal MS medium.

All flavonoids individually (kaempferol and quercetin) as well as total flavonoids content showed gradual increase in amount present in tissues grown on control medium (MS) to tissues fed with 25mgPA/100ml medium, up to maximum in tissues fed with 50mgPA/100 ml medium in *T. cordifolia* and 75mgPA/100ml medium in *C.pendulus*. After that it started declining in tissues fed with 75 to 100 mgPA/100 ml medium *T. cordifolia* and 100mgPA/100ml medium in *C. pendulus* as shown in table 1.2 . In all observations of both plant species amount of kaempferol was slightly more than quercetin as in tissues grown on standardized MS medium.

TABLE NO.-7.1

EFFECT OF β - PHENYLALANINE ON GROWTH INDERX (GI) OF *C. PENDULUS* AND *T. CORDIFOLIA* TISSUE CULTURES

PLANT NAME	MEDIUM	GROWTH INDICS AT THE AGE OF					
		2 Weeks	4 Weeks	6 Weeks	8 Weeks	10Weeks	12 Weeks
<i>C.pendulus</i>	ST MS MEDIUM	0.67±0.01	1.24±0.02	4.01±0.01	6.38±0.03	6.02±0.02	5.34±0.01
	MS+25mgPA/100ml	0.71±0.02	1.30±0.01	4.06±0.03	6.42±0.01	6.08±0.02	5.36±0.03
	MS+50mg PA/100ml	0.74±0.04	1.35±0.03	4.12±0.01	6.49±0.02	6.13±0.01	5.41±0.04
	MS+75 mg PA/100 ml	0.79±0.05	1.42±0.02	4.21±0.02	6.55±0.02	6.20±0.02	5.44±0.01
	MS+100 mg PA/100ml	0.68±0.02	1.27±0.04	4.09±0.03	6.44±0.02	6.07±0.02	5.35±0.01
<i>T.Cordifolia</i>	ST MS MEDIUM	0.88±0.01	1.62±0.02	4.87±0.04	8.03±0.03	7.81±0.01	6.49±0.02
	MS+25mgPA/100ml	0.92±0.02	1.68±0.03	4.90±0.01	8.07±0.02	7.77±0.04	6.51±0.03
	MS+50mg PA/100ml	0.99±0.01	1.75±0.04	4.98±0.02	8.14±0.04	7.83±0.03	6.59±0.01
	MS+75 mg PA/100 ml	0.95±0.02	1.71±0.04	4.96±0.02	8.11±0.04	7.80±0.02	6.55±0.01
	MS+100 mg PA/100ml	0.90±0.01	1.67±0.04	4.91±0.03	8.08±0.01	7.76±0.03	6.52±0.02

Values are mean of five replicates \pm SD

TABLE No. 1.2

EFFECT OF β - PHENYLALANINE ON FLAVONOID CONTNT OF
C. PENDULUS AND T. CORDIFOLIA TISSUE CULTURES

MEDIA	C.PENDULUS			T.CORDIFLIA		
	Kaempferol	Quercetin	Total Flavnoid	Kaempferol	Quercetin	Total Flavonold
Standarized Ms	0.41±0.02	0.37±0.01	0.78±0.03	0.44±0.02	0.41±0.02	0.85±0.04
MS±25 mgPA/100MI	0.44±0.03	0.39±0.01	0.83±0.04	0.50±0.02	0.46±0.01	0.96±0.03
MS±50 mgPA/100MI	0.49±0.01	0.46±0.02	0.95±0.03	0.58±0.01	0.53±0.02	1.11±0.03
MS±75 mgPA/100MI	0.58±0.03	0.52±0.01	1.10±0.04	0.54±0.01	0.50±0.01	1.04±0.02
MS±100 mgPA/100MI	0.52±0.02	0.49±0.01	1.01±0.03	0.49±0.02	0.47±0.01	0.96±0.03

Values are mean of five replicates \pm SD

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