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Foreword

The International Sunflower Association (ISA) and the Argentine Sunflower Association (ASAGIR) are pleased to present this guide to the 18th International Sunflower Conference.

At the time the main objectives for the meeting were defined, organizers aimed to provide a forum for the international sunflower research community with interest in any aspect of science and technology relating to the crop (in its oil-seed and confectionery variants) that would allow all involved to:

- Update knowledge in all fields of sunflower research since the previous conference held at Córdoba, Spain, June 2008;
- Review recent technological advances in sunflower production and identify knowledge gaps that require attention;
- Analyze the status and expectations for current and prospective demands for sunflower products;
- Provide a venue for workshops and special-interest meetings focusing on unresolved research, market, and production issues;
- Provide new generations with an opportunity to interact with global leaders in sunflower research.

The local Program Committee, with the help of the International Steering Committee, has developed a program covering the whole spectrum of relevant topics from genes and genomics through to field agronomy, crop protection, and industry and market issues. The program comprises 14 plenary and 13 invited presentations, 14 short oral presentations, an exhibition of 160 posters that can be visited during each of the first three days of the meeting. In addition, there will be three associated workshops (Bird Damage, Breeding, International Sunflower Genome Initiative), a special-interest presentation of the Global Crop Diversity Trust, and facilities will be available on request for small groups who wish to discuss business or scientific topics.

On the last day of the meeting, the Conference Field Day will be held at the joint INTA-Universidad de Mar del Plata facility in Balcarce. This time the traditional Conference demonstration plots of hybrids from International Sunflower Association member countries and from the host country will be complemented by a broad range of demonstrations of production and management techniques, as well as demonstrations of research techniques in current use by Argentine sunflower research teams.

This Conference has been made possible by the work of many people, by the support of sponsors from both the public and the private sector (sponsors are recognized on the back covers of this guide) and last, but certainly by no means least, those responsible for the lectures, short oral presentations, posters, associated workshops and special interest meetings, and field and laboratory demonstrations that make up the rich and varied bill of fare for this Conference, as reflected in this guide. The Organizing Committee extends their heartfelt thanks to all these individuals and organizations.

ISA and ASAGIR trust that this guide will enable all attendees to have an interesting and fruitful 18th International Sunflower Conference.

Welcome

It has been 27 years since the 11th International Sunflower Conference was held in Mar del Plata, Argentina, March 10-13, 1985. Since then, very many things have changed in the world of sunflower science, technology, and crop production and management. As the global sunflower community reconvenes once again in the same city, its members will have the opportunity to review progress in the last four years, which has been substantial in many areas.

Mar del Plata, a vibrant city located by the sea, with a fishing port, good restaurants, an unusually good choice of golf courses, and kilometers of sandy beaches, together with Balcarce, provide excellent venues for the Conference lectures and Field Day, and will allow attendees to appreciate a unique combination of seas, hills and Pampas. It is a great pleasure for the Organizing Committee to be able to host attendees to this meeting, which we hope will be both enjoyable and fruitful.

Welcome to Argentina, to Mar del Plata and Balcarce, and to the 18th International Sunflower Conference.

Towards dihaploid production in sunflower - Selection of regeneration medium

Dragana Miladinovic^{1*}, Branislav Kovacevic², Aleksandra Dimitrijevic¹, Ivana Imerovski¹, Sinisa Jocić¹, Sandra Cvejic¹, Vladimir Miklic¹

¹Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops, Maksima Gorkog 30, 21000 Novi Sad, Serbia,
*dragana.miladinovic@ifvcns.ns.ac.rs

²Institute of Lowland Forestry and Environment, Antona Cehova 13, 21000 Novi Sad, Serbia

ABSTRACT

- In sunflower breeding, it takes six to eight years to obtain inbred lines that are homozygous. Dihaploid production enables production of completely homozygous material for less than a year thus accelerating breeding process. The aim of our research was to select optimal medium for induction of shoot regeneration from cultivated sunflower anthers.
- Anthers of 74 cultivated sunflower genotypes in BC₂ generation of back-crossing were surface sterilized and placed on four different, MS-medium based solid regeneration media. The appearance of organogenesis or somatic embryogenesis was observed and obtained data statistically analyzed.
- The experiment was set as completely randomised, with two factors. Callus, somatic embryo, shoot and root regeneration on the anthers of the tested genotypes was observed. Data were analysed by ANOVA and REML. Statistical analysis enabled us to determine optimal medium for anther culture and shoot regeneration induction.
- Shoot regeneration (up to 9.39%) was observed in 48.65% tested genotypes. Variation of media composition proved to be essential for efficient sunflower anther culture. The use of appropriate statistical analysis was found to be of the great importance in setting anther culture experiments and optimization of the culture protocols.
- The obtained results will contribute to the better understanding of the conditions needed for haploid production in sunflower and its introduction in sunflower breeding programs.

Key words: anther culture - dihaploid - regeneration - sunflower

INTRODUCTION

For commercial hybrid production, homozygous lines are of great importance. Anther and microspore cultures allow acceleration of breeding programmes by providing homozygous doubled haploids within a comparatively short time.

Anther culture in sunflower (*Helianthus annuus* L.) still needs considerable improvement, as sunflower proved to be very recalcitrant in anther culture (Mezzarobba and Jonard, 1986) and the regeneration rates are very low. As in other species, anther culture response of sunflower is strongly affected by physical, nutritional, physiological and genetic factors (Gurel et al., 1991). That is why it is necessary to test a number of different culture parameters for the successful regeneration of shoots - at least for a number of sunflower lines and interspecific hybrids, as androgenic capacity in sunflower is found to be genotype dependant (Marinkovic et al., 2003).

Regarding medium composition, different authors varied composition mostly of MS medium (Murashige and Skoog, 1962) in order to enhance the frequency of anther callusing and/or somatic embryogenesis and subsequent plant regeneration. Different compositions of media used for establishing anther culture were extensively reviewed by Friedt et al. (1997), and variation of other culture parameters by Nichterlein and Horn (2005).

The aim of our research was to select optimal medium for induction of shoot regeneration from cultivated sunflower anthers.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Anthers of 74 cultivated sunflower genotypes in BC₂ generation of back-crossing were surface sterilized and placed on four different, MS-medium based solid regeneration media. Media were supplemented with basic MS macro and micro salts, 0.3% gelrite, pH 5.7, while composition of hormones varied (Vasic et al., 2000). Anthers were cultured in the dark at 30°C.

The appearance of organogenesis or somatic embryogenesis was observed after fourth week of culture, and percentage of regenerated roots and shoots calculated.

Obtained data were analyzed by ANOVA and REML using StatSoft 11. Controlled sources of variation, genotype, medium and their interaction, were treated as random effects in the statistical analysis. REML was used in order to quantify variance components of controlled sources of variation. LSD test for comparison of mean values was done.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Variance analysis showed that the all sources of variation had significant effect on callus, embryo and root formation, while the medium did not have significant effect on shoot regeneration (Table 1). This is in accordance with the results of other authors who found that regeneration in sunflower anther culture is highly genotype dependant (Nurhidayah et al., 1994; Thengane et al., 1994; Zhong et al., 1995; Vasic et al., 2000).

Table 1. F values of all sources variation for callusogenesis, somatic embryogenesis, root and shoot regeneration

Source	Callusogenesis	Somatic embryogenesis	Root regeneration	Shoot regeneration
Genotype	5.75**	3.21**	2.30**	2.92**
Medium	48.56**	3.99**	20.73**	1.94ns
G x M	12.82**	3.12**	5.64**	2.96**

** - Significant at $\alpha_{0.05}$ and $\alpha_{0.01}$; ns - Not significant

REML analysis showed that medium variance did not contribute significantly to the total variance, thus the effect of medium on observed traits could not be quantified (Table 2). However GxM interaction was high, which shows that there were significant differences in reaction of the tested genotypes to the media used. This further confirms the need to for the anther culture media improvement and their optimisation according to the requirements of the genotypes used (Marinkovic et al., 2003; Nichterlein and Horn, 2005).

Table 2. REML analysis of variance components for callusogenesis, somatic embryogenesis, root and shoot regeneration

Source	Callusogenesis	Somatic embryogenesis	Root regeneration	Shoot regeneration
Genotype	509.38**	39.41**	30.40**	16.98**
Medium	273.41ns	2.88ns	24.92ns	0.46ns
G x M	395.57**	48.39**	76.87**	23.36**
Error	100.36**	68.55**	49.66**	35.81**

** - Significant at $\alpha_{0.05}$ and $\alpha_{0.01}$; ns - Not significant

Shoot regeneration (up to 9.39%) was observed in 48.65% tested genotypes. The highest number of genotypes (36.49%) regenerated plants on A medium supplemented with hormones favouring the callus regeneration (Vasic et al., 2000). This medium had the highest percentage of somatic embryo, root and shoot regeneration.

Initial callus formation was significantly higher in B medium than in other tested media (Table 3), but it did not lead to high shoot regeneration, since only 18.92% of genotypes regenerated shoots on this medium.

The lowest percentage of somatic embryo regeneration was observed in C and D media, which had medium and sugar composition adapted for somatic embryo induction (Vasic et al., 2000). Shoot regeneration on these two media was also low (Table 3).

Table 3. LSD test for percentage of callusogenesis, somatic embryogenesis, root and shoot regeneration

Medium	Callusogenesis %	Somatic embryogenesis %	Root regeneration %	Shoot regeneration %
A	61.60b	3.38a	4.57a	0.66a
B	78.07a	2.14b	3.95a	0.28b
C	16.63d	1.21c	0.24b	0.21b
D	35.58c	1.35c	0.32b	0.22b

The values within the same column marked with different letters differed significantly at $\alpha_{0.05}$

Regarding contribution of components of variance to the total variance, genotype had the highest effect on callus formation since its variance contributed to 50% of total variance (Figure 1). The effect of genotype and interaction was similar for embryo formation, as their variances contributed approximately to 25% of total variance each. Interaction had the highest effect on root and shoot regeneration, contributing to 45% and 30% of the total variance, respectively.

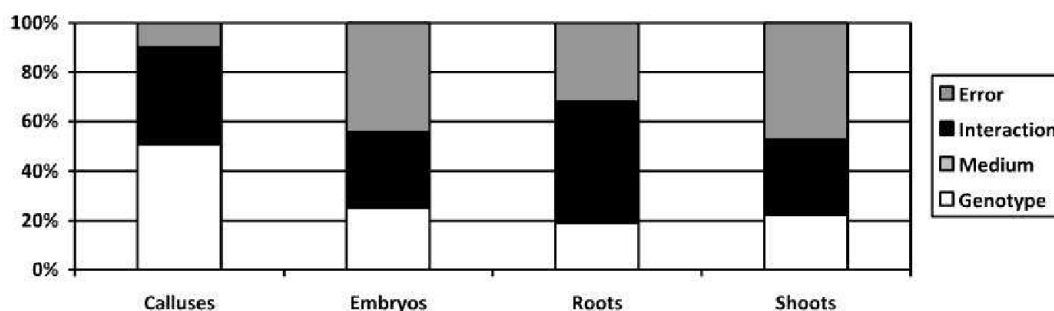


Figure 1. Contribution of expected variances of tested variation sources to the total variance (%)

The obtained results indicate that genotype plays an important role in initial establishment of sunflower anther culture, but that interaction GxM is more important in the subsequent culture and shoot regeneration induction.

Although some promising results regarding sunflower anther culture were obtained (Nurhidayah et al., 1996), further research is needed for optimization of haploid production for the use in sunflower breeding. Regeneration percentage is relatively low and depends on genotype (Marinkovic et al., 2003).

The results obtained in our study will contribute to the better understanding of the conditions needed for haploid production in sunflower and its introduction in sunflower breeding programs. The use of

appropriate statistical analysis was found to be of the great importance in setting anther culture experiments and optimization of the culture protocols, as it helped us to establish the importance of different variance components and their interaction in different stages of anther culture. Further studies should be focused on medium composition variation, as well as optimisation of donor plants growing conditions in order to elucidate the nature of genotype effect and overcome strong effects on the environment on sunflower androgenic potential.

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