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Title: In-vitro Conservation and Propagation of Eclipta alba (L) Hassk: A Valuable Medicinal Plant

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Abstract: An efficient protocol for rapid in vitro propagation of valuable medicinal plant *Eclipta alba* (Asteraceae) by using leaves, shoot tip and nodes as explants were done. This plant is used in the traditional medicinal system for hepatic disorder, spleen enlargement, catarrhal jaundice, skin disease, dyeing and promoting hair growth. The in vitro plantlets production system was investigated on Murashige and Skoog medium with different concentrations and combinations of different hormones such as BAP alone and in combination with AdSO₄ were used for shoot multiplication. Shoot multiplication was induced both on shoot tip and node. Multiplication was best in shoot tip explants when grown on MS medium supplemented with BAP (1.5 mg/l) and AdSO₄ (25 mg/l). The best callusing was observed in combination of 2,4-D (1.0 mg/l) and kinetin (0.5 mg/l). Rooting on excised shootlets was highest in MS medium supplemented with IBA (1.0 mg/l) along with 2.0 gms./l charcoal. Rooted plantlets were transferred to the protray for hardening. The potting mix used was sterile coco peat. After plantation the protrays were kept under poly tunnel to retain almost 100% humidity. After 7 days, the new leaves and roots came out and the plantlets were transferred to poly bags containing soil: sand: FYM in 1:1:1 proportion and kept under the shade in green house for secondary hardening. The survival percentage in green house was found 96. Micropropagated plants were uniform and identical to the mother plant with respect to growth characteristics as well as floral feature. These plants grew normally without showing any morphological variation.

Description: In-vitro Conservation and Propagation of *Eclipta alba* (L) Hassk: A Valuable Medicinal Plant

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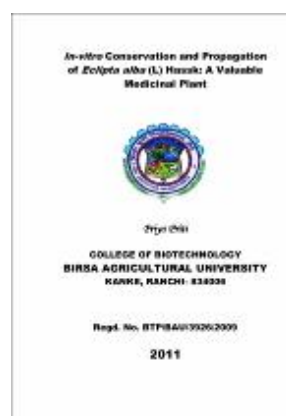
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