

**EFFECT OF GAMMA RAYS ON PROPAGATION OF *Zantedeschia aethiopica* Spreng  
BY TISSUE CULTURE TECHNIQUE**

(Received: 18. 5. 2011)

By

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**ABSTRACT**

The average of two seasons investigation was initiated at the Laboratory of Plant Tissue Culture, Agricultural Development Systems Project (ADSP), Ministry of Agriculture, to disclose the individual and combined effects of five gamma ray doses (0, 3, 6, 9, 12 and 15 kr) and various growth substances supplementation to MS media, *in vitro*, on growth and root parameters of *Zantedeschia aethiopica* (L.) Spreng, shoot tips.

The obtained results revealed that survival (%) increased up to the third day, then declined gradually. Survival (%) decreased progressively as irradiation doses (Kr) increased, but plantlets treated with doses higher than 6.0 Kr died at the seventh day.

In general, 3.0 Kr irradiation individually at most growth substances, increased the number of shoot, shoots length, number of roots, and root length compared to the control.

The response of the studied parameters to various growth substances individually or combined with gamma ray doses was variable. The highest values of shoot length(cm) and the number of shoots resulted significantly by 3.0 Kr irradiation combined with 4.0mg BA/l and 3.0 Kr irradiation combined with 3.0mg TDZ/l, respectively in comparison to most other treatments. Moreover, the number of roots and root length were significantly the largest due to 3.0 Kr gamma rays with 5mg NAA/l, successively compared with most other treatments. Whereas, the lowest values of shoot length(cm) and the number of shoots were produced by 6.0 kr gamma rays combined with 0.0mg BA/L and 0.0mg TDZ/l, on concession.

**Key words:** *gamma rays , in vitro propagation, Zantedeschia aethiopica.*

**1.INTRODUCTION**

*Zantedeschia aethiopica* (L.) Spreng (Calla, Cally lily, arum lily), family Araceae is a perennial stemless herb with thick fleshy subterranean much branched rhizomes; such underground storage organ is thickened , fleshy and has been classified as a corm, tuber or rhizome (Bryan, 2002 ). These plants are native to South Africa, Cape Province Natal, Transvaal Malawi to Angola and Lesotho, widely naturalized in tropical and subtropical regions (Niederwieser *et al.*, 2002). They occur as a roadside wild flower in its native zones; suitable for containers and borders in cool to intermediate glasshouse to conservatory , a pot plant and cut blooms. They are useful as focal specimen in shaded borders, in boggygradens and marginal aquatics. (Corr and Wilkins, 2005).

Micropropagation or plant tissue culture provides numerous numbers of new plants-that are identical to the mother plant by using a small piece of plant. Different types of plants are now propagated extensively through *in vitro* techniques. Arafa and Ebrahim (2001) consummated various investigations to culture Calla lily *in vitro* under different conditions.

The behaviors of each consecutive micropropagation of *Zantedeschia* sp. plants were clearly influenced by many factors as cytokinins (TDZ, BA) and auxin (NAA) ( Koech *et al.*, 2002; Chang *et al.*, 2003; Ebrahim , 2004 and El-Shamy *et al.*, 2008).

Irradiation of seeds or shoot or root tips or different parts with different doses of gamma rays is an effective tool to encourage survival (%), growth and flowering characters, as well as

creating new cultivars.

However, the suitable doses of radiation for different plants are variant. Kovacs and Keresztes (2002) mentioned that gamma rays produce hydrogen peroxide and free radicals which are themselves activators, stimulators and mutagenic through molecular effects. Many investigators as Khalil *et al.* (2001) on *Foeniculum vulgare* and *Nigella sativa*, Badr *et al.* (2004) on *Gompherna globosa* and Seung *et al.* (2007) on *Arabidopsis thaliana* mentioned that low doses of gamma rays stimulated various characters. High doses of irradiation have reductive or lethal effects. This inhibition may be rendered apices appeared histologically inert or breakdown of meristematic cells and cell nuclear damage.

The prospective of the present investigation was to disclose the influence of various doses of gamma rays irradiation and providing MS media with auxin alpha-naphthalene acetic acid (NAA) and cytokinins benzyladenine (BA), thidiazuron (TDZ) on growth parameters of *Zantedeschia aethiopica* (L.) Spreng in *in vitro* culture.

## 2. MATERIAL AND METHODS

Greenhouse-grown plants of *Zantedeschia aethiopica* (L.) Spreng, with rhizome diameter 6-7cm were used for this investigation during the 2007-2009 seasons.

Rhizome- bud explants (1.0cm length) were surface sterilized under complete aseptic conditions in a sterilized laminar air-flow hood, by immersion in 4.0% NaOCl solution for 5 minutes, as suggested by Arafa and Ebrahim (2001). After sterilization, the explants were rinsed in a sterile distilled water to remove all traces of chlorine.

Outside tissues were removed, apical meristems were cultured on MS (Murashige and Skoog, 1962) basal medium containing 10g sucrose/l and 6.0 agar/l. Developing explants were recultured at four weeks intervals, in order to obtain sufficient number of plantlets.

Plantlets (6mm long) were gamma irradiated with a one fold dose of 0, 3, 6, 9, 12 and 15kr from cobalt source at the Atomic Energy Authority. Irradiation dose was measured at the planned location of the sample before treatment. Samples were positioned between two sheets of Lucite. The irradiation field was 15x15cm and was homogenous. Depth dose was calculated. Dose rate was 2.37rad./ second. Exposure time was equivalent for treatments of 0, 3, 6, 9, 12 and 15kr of gamma rays. Irradiated plantlets were sterilized in aqueous NaOCl 4.0% for five minutes, After

sterilization, the explants were rinsed three times in sterilized distilled water to remove all traces of chlorine and sub-cultured on MS basal media (pH 5.7) provided with 10g sucrose and 6g agar/l to determine percentage of survival, for eight days.

The results disclosed that irradiation doses more than 6 kr were lethal, so plantlets of the 0, 3 and 6 kr doses were used to test the effect of supplementing basal media (full strength MS) with different concentrations of growth regulators namely; 0.0, 1.0, 2.0, 3.0, 4.0 and 5.0mg/l. of (BA), (TDZ) and (NAA) growth substances, individually.

Eight weeks later, the following parameters were recorded for each plantlet: number of shoots, shoot length (cm), number of root, root length (cm).

The layout of the investigation was complete randomized factorial design (3 gamma doses x 6 concentrations) with six replications for each treatment. The obtained data were analysed according to a statistical analysis programme (SAS, 1994); comparing between figures was done using L.S.D. at 5% level, as reported by Snedecor and Cochran (1980).

## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 3.1. Effect of irradiation doses on survival (%)

It appeared from the data in Table (1) that irradiation of *Zantedeschia* plantlets with various doses of gamma rays significantly reduced survival percentages in comparison to the control (unirradiated). The percentages decreased gradually as gamma ray doses increased. Survival began in the second day for most irradiation doses, but at the third day for the control. Then, it decreased progressively day by day, till the seventh and it became constant in the eighth day. Shoots treated with 15 Kr dose died at the sixth day, whereas those irradiated with gamma rays at 9 and 12 Kr died at the eighth day. These results are in agreement with those of Fereol *et al.* (1996) on *Alpinia purpurata*; Bakrey and Ismail (2002) on papaya; El-Shakhs *et al.* (2007) on canary island palm, livistona, sabal and washingtonia and Abu El-Leil (2008) on black seed and cumin, which reported that low doses of gamma ray stimulated survival (%), but raising irradiation doses led to a progressive decrease in such parameter. Kovacs and Keresztes (2002) explained lethality of explants at high gamma rays doses by breakdown of meristematic cells and cell nuclear damage.

### **3.2. Effect of gamma rays and various growth substances on some growth parameters of *Zantedeschia* shoot tips**

#### **3.2.1. Impact of irradiation doses individually, irrespective of substances**

Data presented in Tables (2 to 4) disclosed that irradiation of *Zantedeschia* shoot tips with 3.0 Kr dose led significantly to the highest number and longest shoots and roots compared to the control and 6.0 Kr dose, in most cases. The radiation doses caused significant reductions of shoot length and number of shoots and roots in comparison with the control. Such findings showed a similar trend in average of two seasons. Puchooa (2005) on *Anthurium* and Tangpong *et al.*(2009) on *Anubias congenis* obtained similar finding, that low irradiation doses stimulated shoot and root formation and plant height, but high doses reduced such parameters .

#### **3.2.2. Effect of benzyladenine (BA) and radiation doses**

It is clear from the data in Table (2) that the influence of BA on various growth characters was not similar. Number and shoot length of shoot tips showed a gradual significant increase as BA concentrations were raised. On the other hand, root length and root number showed the opposite trend.

Concerning the effect of the combined treatments (radiation and BA rates), it appeared that the control produced the largest number of roots and root length. While the largest number of shoots (8.3) and the longest shoots (11.35 cm) resulted due to 3.0 Kr irradiation combined with 4.0mg BA/l, but the largest number of roots (4.0) and root length (4.04 cm) resulted from the treatment of 3.0 Kr irradiation dose combined with 1.0mg BA/l and the lowest number of shoots(1.3) and shoot length (1.75cm) resulted due to the treatment of 6.0 Kr combined with 0.0mg BA/l, The least number of roots and root length resulted due to 0.0 Kr combined with 5.0mg BA/l. Such combined treatment resulted in the significant highest values in comparison with most other ones.

#### **3.2.3. Effect of thidiazuron (TDZ) and irradiation doses**

The impact of TDZ concentrations on various aerial parts and root characters was variable, as shown in Table (3). All levels of TDZ increased the number of shoots and length of shoots over the control (0.0mg TDZ/l), based on the average of the two seasons. This character was raised gradually with increasing TDZ up to (3.0mg

TDZ/l) concentration, then it declined progressively. While, the low levels of TDZ led to produced shorter roots compared to the control.

Shoot length and the number of shoots increased gradually by increasing TDZ levels up to 3.0 mg/L, then they were raised. But for the number and root length per plant, the 4.0mg level raised it compared with the control. Variations between most of TDZ concentrations were significant based on the average of the two seasons.

It was clear from Table ( 3) that the treatment of 3.0 Kr in radiation dose combined with 3.0 mg TDZ/l, resulted in the highest number of shoots (7.3) and the longest shoots (10.32 cm). But, the longest roots and largest number of roots occurred due to 3.0 Kr irradiation combined with 4.0mg TDZ/l , based on the average of the two seasons.

However, the treatment of 1.0mg TDZ/l without irradiation gave the shortest roots (1.74 cm). While, the least number of roots (1.0) was produced by 6.0 Kr gamma rays at 1.0mg TDZ/L concentration, based on the average of the two seasons.

The differences between such treatments producing the highest and lowest values and other ones were significant, in most cases, at average two seasons.

#### **3.2.4. Effect of alpha-naphthalene acetic acid (NAA) and radiation doses**

The results in Table (4) revealed that the values of shoot length, and number of shoots were raised progressively as NAA concentrations increased up to 4.0mg/l, then they declined; while, number of shoots/plant happened with increasing NAA level up to 5.0mg/l, but the values of root length and root number were raised till 5.0mg/l.

The lower values of the number of shoot and shoot length occurred due to 1.0 and 2.0mg/l NAA, but the control (0.0mg/l NAA) gave lower values of number and length(cm) of roots, based on the average of the two seasons. Such values were significantly higher or lower than most other concentrations.

As for the combined treatments (doses of gamma rays and NAA concentrations) it appeared that the higher values of number and length of shoots and number and length of roots occurred due to 3.0 Kr x 4.0 mg/L NAA and 3.0 Kr at 5.0 mg/l NAA, respectively.

On the other hand, the lowest values of shoot number and length resulted by the treatment of 6.0 Kr gamma rays combined with 5.0mg NAA;

**Table(1) Effect of irradiation doses through 8 days on survival (%) of *Zantedeschia aethiopica***

Gamma rays Kr	Survival (%)								
	Time (days)								
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Mean
0	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100.00
3	100	100	80	80	70	60	60	60	76.25
6	100	100	70	50	50	30	30	30	57.50
9	100	80	70	40	40	20	10	0	45.00
12	100	70	50	30	20	10	10	0	36.25
15	100	60	40	20	10	0	0	0	28.75
Mean	100.00	85.00	68.33	53.33	48.33	36.67	35.00	31.67	
L.S.D 5% Time	12.56								
Gamma	13.57								
Interaction	8.12								

**Table(2):Effect of BA and three doses of gamma rays on *Zantedeschia aethiopica* shoot number , shoot length, root number and root length after 8 weeks (average of two seasons)**

BA mg/l	Shoot number				Shoot length(cm)				Root number				Root length(cm)			
	Doses of gamma rays ( Kr)															
	0	3	6	Mean	0	3	6	Mean	0	3	6	Mean	0	3	6	Mean
0	1.9	3.6	1.3	2.27	2.34	5.85	1.75	3.31	3.3	4.0	2.3	3.20	2.63	4.04	1.97	2.88
1	2.6	5.3	2.0	3.30	3.10	7.75	2.32	4.39	2.0	2.9	1.6	2.17	1.97	4.53	1.47	2.66
2	2.9	5.9	2.3	3.70	3.46	8.65	2.59	4.90	1.3	1.9	0.9	1.37	1.58	3.64	1.18	2.13
3	4.3	6.3	3.6	4.73	4.24	7.42	2.12	4.59	1.0	1.6	0.6	1.07	0.84	1.93	0.94	1.24
4	4.6	8.3	2.0	4.97	4.54	11.35	3.39	6.43	1.0	1.3	0.6	0.97	0.92	2.20	0.86	1.33
5	3.9	5.9	1.6	3.80	3.87	6.77	1.93	4.19	0.0	1.3	0.6	0.63	0	1.23	0.74	0.66
Mean	3.37	5.88	2.13		3.59	7.97	2.35		1.43	2.17	1.10		1.32	2.93	1.19	
L.S.D.5% BA	0.56				0.63				0.22				0.37			
Gamma	0.98				1.09				0.38				0.64			
Interaction	1.39				1.55				0.53				0.91			

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**Table(3):Effect of TDZ and three doses of gamma rays on *Zantedeschia aethiopica* shoot number , shoot length, root number and root length after 8 weeks (average of two seasons)**

TDZ mg/l	Shoot number				Shoot length(cm)				Root number				Root length(cm)			
	Doses of gamma rays ( Kr)															
	0	3	6	Mean	0	3	6	Mean	0	3	6	Mean	0	3	6	Mean
0	1.9	3.6	1.3	2.27	2.34	5.85	1.75	3.31	3.3	4.0	2.3	3.20	2.63	4.04	1.97	2.88
1	2.0	4.3	1.6	2.63	2.82	7.05	2.11	3.99	1.3	2.0	1.0	1.43	1.74	3.28	2.60	2.54
2	2.3	4.6	1.6	2.83	3.15	7.87	2.36	4.46	1.6	2.6	1.3	1.83	2.56	3.49	3.32	3.12
3	3.6	7.3	2.9	4.60	4.13	10.32	3.09	5.85	2.6	2.9	1.6	2.37	3.61	5.00	3.71	4.11
4	3.3	4.9	1.6	3.27	3.86	6.75	1.93	4.18	3.9	5.0	2.6	3.83	3.33	5.24	4.16	4.24
5	3.0	4.6	1.3	2.97	3.52	6.16	1.76	3.81	3.3	3.9	2.0	3.07	3.01	4.75	3.23	3.66
Mean	2.68	4.88	1.72		3.30	7.33	2.17		2.67	3.40	1.80		2.81	4.30	3.17	
L.S.D.5%					0.49				0.22				0.28			
TDZ	0.36				0.85				0.38				0.49			
Gamma	0.64				1.20				0.54				0.7			
Interaction	0.90															

**Table(4):Effect of NAA and three doses of gamma rays on *Zantedeschia aethiopica* shoot number, shoot length, root number and root length after 8 weeks (average of two seasons)**

TDZ mg/l	Shoot number				Shoot length(cm)				Root number				Root length(cm)			
	Doses of gamma rays ( Kr)															
	0	3	6	Mean	0	3	6	Mean	0	3	6	Mean	0	3	6	Mean
0	1.9	3.6	1.3	2.27	2.34	5.85	1.75	3.31	3.3	4.0	2.3	3.20	2.63	4.04	1.97	2.88
1	1.6	3.0	1.3	1.97	2.17	5.43	1.62	3.07	3.9	5.6	4.6	4.70	3.35	6.84	4.73	4.97
2	1.6	3.6	1.3	2.17	2.42	6.06	1.81	3.43	3.9	6.0	4.9	4.93	4.24	7.27	5.82	5.78
3	2.6	3.6	2.0	2.73	2.97	5.19	1.48	3.22	4.6	6.3	5.6	5.50	5.37	7.85	6.52	6.58
4	2.6	4.9	1.3	2.93	3.18	7.95	2.37	4.50	4.9	6.9	5.6	5.80	5.83	8.36	7.24	7.14
5	2.3	3.3	0.9	2.17	2.71	4.74	1.35	2.93	5.9	7.6	6.0	6.50	6.96	9.72	7.77	8.15
Mean	2.10	3.67	1.35		2.63	5.87	1.73		4.42	6.07	4.83		4.73	7.35	5.68	
L.S.D.5%					0.4				0.3				0.36			
TDZ	0.3				0.69				0.5				0.61			
Gamma	0.53				0.98				0.7				0.86			
Interaction	0.75															

but the least number of roots and length was formed by 6.0 Kr irradiation dose combined with 0.0mg/l NAA, based on the average of the two seasons.

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تأثير أشعة جاما على اكثار نبات الكلا (*Zantedeschia aethiopica* Spreng)  
بواسطة تقنية زراعة الأنسجة

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**ملخص**

أجري هذا البحث لموسمين متتالين لدراسة التأثير الفردي والمشارك لبعض جرعات أشعة جاما وإضافات بعض منظمات النمو على نمو وصفات الجذور لقمم الفرع لنبات الكلا بواسطة زراعة الأنسجة. أوضحت النتائج المتحصل عليها أن نسبة البقاء للحياه زادت حتى اليوم الثالث ثم تناقصت تدريجياً. نقصت نسبة البقاء حياً بالتدريج كلما زادت جرعات الإشعاع (كيلوراد)، بعكس النباتات التي تلقت جرعات أكثر من 6 كيلوراد في اليوم السابع. عموماً سببت جرعة 3 كيلوراد من الإشعاع - بمفرده - تحت ظروف معظم مواد النمو، سببت زيادة في عدد وطول الأفرع و طول الجذر وعدد الجذور على النبات بالمقارنة مع معاملة المقارنة. تبينت استجابة الصفات المدروسة لمواد النمو المختلفة منفردة أو مرتبطة مع جرعات أشعة جاما. نتجت أعلى قيم معنوياً لطول الساق (سم)، و عدد الأفرع بواسطة 3 كيلوراد مرتبطاً مع 4.0 مج بنزيل أدنين/لتر، 6.0 مج ت د ز/لتر على الترتيب بالمقارنة مع معظم المعاملات الأخرى، لكن عدد الجذور وطول الجذور كانت الأكبر - معنوياً - نتيجة لـ 3.0 كيلوراد أشعة جاما مع 5.0 مج نفتالين استك اسيد/لتر بالمقارنة بالمعاملات الأخرى في معظم الحالات. غير أن أقل قيم طول الفرع (سم) وعدد أفرع نتجت بواسطة 6.0 كيلوراد أشعة جاما مرتبطة مع صفر مج/لتر للبنزيل أدنين، صفر مج/لتر ت د ز على التوالي.

المجلة العلمية لكلية الزراعة - جامعة القاهرة - المجلد (62) العدد الثالث (يوليو 2011): 355-361.