



The Fourth Asian School-Conference
on Physics and Technology of
Nanostructured Materials

Vladivostok, Russia, September 23 – 28, 2018

P R O C E E D I N G S

Vladivostok
Far Eastern Federal University
2018

UDC 539.1
LBC 22.38
T44

The School-Conference is supported by grants of RFBR (No. 18-02-20082_g).

T44

The Fourth Asian School-Conference on Physics and Technology of Nanostructured Materials, Vladivostok, Russia, September 23–28, 2018 : Proceedings. – Vladivostok : Publishing House of the Far Eastern Federal University, 2018. – 265, [23] p.

ISBN 978-5-7444-4368-9.

The Proceedings include extended abstracts of invited talks and contributed papers of the school-conference. The abstracts reflect the new results and scientific achievements in the field of new materials, nanotechnology and surface science. This proceedings volume is intended for scientist, teachers and post-graduate students.

UDC 539.1
LBC 22.38

ISBN 978-5-7444-4368-9
2018

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Plant morphogenesis under different light

Yu.N. Kulchin¹, O.V. Nakonechnaya^{*2}, I.V. Gafitskaya², O.V. Grishchenko², T.Yu. Epifanova²,
I.Yu. Orlovskaya², Yu.N. Zhuravlev², E.P. Subbotin¹

¹ Institute of Automation and Control Processes FEB RAS, 5 Radio St., Vladivostok 690041, Russia

² Federal Scientific Center of the East Asia Terrestrial Biodiversity FEB RAS, 159 Prospect 100 let Vladivostoku, Vladivostok 690022, Russia

*e-mail: markelova@biosoil.ru

Abstract. The innovative LED light source (Sun Box) with spectrum in the wavelength range 440-660 nm was used in experiment for study the influence of light intensity on the growth and development of plants. The illumination intensity of 75 and 230 $\mu\text{mol/s}\cdot\text{m}^2$ promoted development of *Stevia rebaudiana* plantlets with optimal values of morphometric parameters and well developed roots, which is important for plantlet adaptation to soil conditions. For *Solanum tuberosum* plantlets (Snegir and Rozhdestvenskiy cultivars), radiation intensity of 135 $\mu\text{mol/s}\cdot\text{m}^2$ was optimal for micropropagation. The illumination intensity of 230 $\mu\text{mol/s}\cdot\text{m}^2$ led to a formation of plantlets with the largest total fresh mass among experimental groups. Sun Box light with intensity of 75 $\mu\text{mol/s}\cdot\text{m}^2$ could be applied for micropropagation of these cultivars: plantlets were the highest with the largest internodes number. Thus, the plant response to different light intensity was species-specific, and – in case of potato plantlets – cultivar-specific.

1. Introduction

The light factor, along with the temperature factor, is one of the main exogenous modulators of the electrical plant activity [1, 2]. The connection of light with the structure of plants was revealed as early as the beginning of the last century [3], revealing its influence on morphometric indices. Light is characterized by several parameters: spectrum, intensity, etc. Each parameter has a directional effect, determining the features of morphogenesis.

Knowledge about the light influence on the development of the morpho-physiological plant parameters is necessary for modeling of growing conditions. It is particularly important in case of species significant for humans, such as potato (*Solanum tuberosum* Bullfinch) - a valuable agricultural species taking a third place in the world among the plants used for food. Another important species is *Stevia rebaudiana*, a medicinal plant producing natural sugars stevioside and rebaudioside A. Potentially, the plant can be used in the treatment of type 2 diabetes [4].

The purpose of this work was to study the effect of different light intensities (75, 135, 230 and 382 $\mu\text{mol/s}\cdot\text{m}^2$) on growth and development of *Stevia rebaudiana* and *Solanum tuberosum*, cvs. Snegir, Rozhdestvenskiy and Kamchatskii *in vitro* in order to select optimal light conditions for accelerated plant micropropagation.

2. Experiment

Investigation of the light intensity effect on plant growth was carried out in the Federal Scientific Center of the East Asia Terrestrial Biodiversity (FSCATB), Far Eastern Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences (Vladivostok) in 2015-2018. For the experiments, plantlets of *Stevia rebaudiana* and non-viral potatoe plantlets (cv. Snegir, Rozhdestvenskiy and Kamchatskii early ripening variety) were used. The microcloning method was used for plant propagation.

For the experiment, a novel LED light source (Sun Box) was designed and manufactured in the Center of Laser Technologies of the Institute of Automation and Control Processes of the Far Eastern Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences (IALS RAS, the Far Eastern Branch

of the Russian Academy of Sciences). The emission spectrum of the Sun Box was close to the solar radiation spectrum in the wavelength range 440-660 nm. Four values of Sun Box light intensity, 75, 135, 230 and 382 $\mu\text{mol/s}\cdot\text{m}^2$, were tested. Fluorescent lamps with irradiation intensity of 49 $\mu\text{mol/s}\cdot\text{m}^2$ were used as control illumination. Morphometric parameters such as plant height, length of internodes, leaf length and width, fresh root mass and green mass (shoots with leaves) were measured. The results were represented as mean with standard error of mean.

3. Results and discussions

Cultivation of the *S. rebaudiana* plantlets at intensity level of 75 $\mu\text{mol/s}\cdot\text{m}^2$ provided the development of plantlets with reliably higher levels of morphometric parameters, in comparison with control and other experimental groups. Parameter values of plantlets cultivated at 135 $\mu\text{mol/s}\cdot\text{m}^2$ did not differ from that of control plantlets, except for fresh green mass, which was significantly higher than in control. Similar data were obtained for plantlets at 230 $\mu\text{mol/s}\cdot\text{m}^2$, but biomass accumulation in such plantlets was maximal, comparing with plantlets of other experimental groups and control. Light intensity level of 382 $\mu\text{mol/s}\cdot\text{m}^2$ inhibited plant development, though caused intensive root formation.

Morphometric parameters of *S. tuberosum* plantlets (cvs. Snegir and Rozhdestvenskiy) at light intensity of 75 $\mu\text{mol/s}\cdot\text{m}^2$ were equal to those of control plantlets. PPFD level of 135 $\mu\text{mol/s}\cdot\text{m}^2$ provided the maximal values of height, leaf quantity and length, and fresh root mass; and total fresh mass values were 1.5 times higher than in control. Plantlets at light intensity 230 $\mu\text{mol/s}\cdot\text{m}^2$ and 382 $\mu\text{mol/s}\cdot\text{m}^2$ were characterized with some lowering of growth parameters, comparing with control group, though the difference was statistically insignificant.

The results obtained for *S. tuberosum* (cv. Kamchatskii) showed that height of plantlets under PPFD values 135, 230 and 382 $\mu\text{mol/s}\cdot\text{m}^2$ was significantly lower than in control group. The length of internodes of plantlets under 230 and 382 $\mu\text{mol/s}\cdot\text{m}^2$ was reliably less than in control. Interestingly, substantially greater leaves length and width were observed for plantlets in all experimental groups,

comparing with the control. Root fresh weight was substantially higher for plantlets in all experimental groups, in comparison with control, and was the highest for plantlets under 230 $\mu\text{mol/s}\cdot\text{m}^2$. The total fresh weight of plantlets grown at high light intensities (230 and 382 $\mu\text{mol/s}\cdot\text{m}^2$) significantly exceeded the weight of the control plantlets by 1.5 and 1.25 times, respectively.

4. Conclusions

Different LED Sun Box light intensities (75, 135, 230 and 382 $\mu\text{mol/s}\cdot\text{m}^2$) affected values of morphometric parameters of stevia and potato plantlets cultivated *in vitro*. In case of *S. rebaudiana*, the illumination intensity of 75 and 230 $\mu\text{mol/s}\cdot\text{m}^2$ promoted development of plantlets with optimal values of morphometric parameters and well developed roots, which could possibly adapt to soil conditions more effectively. For *S. tuberosum* plantlets (cvs Snegir and Rozhdestvenskiy), radiation intensity of 135 $\mu\text{mol/s}\cdot\text{m}^2$ was optimal. The increase of root mass and intensive development of the aboveground parts was observed. At the same time, cultivation of potato plantlets of cv Kamchatskii at intensity of 230 $\mu\text{mol/s}\cdot\text{m}^2$ led to formation of plantlets with the largest total mass among experimental groups. Plantlets grown at 75 $\mu\text{mol/s}\cdot\text{m}^2$ displayed characteristics favorable for micropropagation: had the highest height values and internodes number. For conditions of long-term cultivation in collection the intensity of 135 $\mu\text{mol/s}\cdot\text{m}^2$ was the most acceptable for potatoes of cv Kamchatskii, since the fitness of plantlets cultivated under such conditions was close to the control plantlets.

Thus, the application of artificial LED light source (Sun Box) seems promising for cultivation of stevia and potato plantlets *in vitro*. The plant response to different light intensity was species-specific, and, in case of potato plantlets, cultivar-specific. Varying the intensity parameters in the range of 60-100 $\mu\text{mol/s}\cdot\text{m}^2$ can have a positive or negative influence on the growth and development of individual organs and the whole plantlet. At the same time, cultivation of plantlets under the investigated light regimes, depending on the purpose of the experiment, could significantly reduce the labor costs of micropropagation, as well as reduce the cost of electricity.

Acknowledgements

The authors are grateful to L.M. Timasheva (Federal Scientific Center of the East Asia Terrestrial Biodiversity FEB RAS, Russia) for providing *Stevia rebaudiana* plantlets.

The work was supported by the grant of the Russian Academy of Sciences (grant N 18-5-079).

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Научное издание

**Четвертая азиатская школа-
конференция по физике и технологии
наноструктурированных материалов**

Международная школа-конференция
Владивосток, Россия, 23 – 28 сентября 2018

На английском языке

Scientific publication

**The Fourth Asian School-Conference on
Physics and Technology of
Nanostructured Materials**

International School-Conference
Vladivostok, Russia, September 23 – 28, 2018

Proceedings

In charge of publication *N.G. Galkin*
Design and layout *S.V. Chusovitina*

Printed from the original layout,
prepared at the Institute of Automation and Control Processes, FEB RAS,
bypassing the preparation in the FEFU Publishing House

Signed into print 10.04.2018.
Format 60x84/8. Printed sheets 33,95.
Circulation 500 copies. Order xxx.

Far Eastern Federal University
8 Suhanova St., Vladivostok, 690091

Printed in the printing house of Publishing House of the Far Eastern Federal University
10 Pushkinskaya St., Vladivostok, 690091