SOMATIC EMBRYOGENESIS IN TEA FROM STEM AND LEAF TISSUES

T.M. Sarathchandra, P.D. Upali and R.G.A Wijewardena
Tea Research Institute of Sri Lanka, Talawakele.

Callus formation occured at the basal ends of the nodal explants when cultured in two of the media that were tested. The media were the Vacin and Went mediumwith green coconut water and the other was an MS medium with 0.1 mg/l IBA and 1.0 mg/l BAP, the pH of both being 5.7. The rate of multiplication of the callus was increased when transferred to a medium with high sucrose content. Embryoid-like structures have been observed to form after about 8 weeks. Attempts are now being made to regenerate plants from these cultures.

Juvenile leaves, produced in culture, were induced to form callus by cutting them into pieces and placing them on callusing medium. Callus formation occurred at the cut ends. Callus formation was found to be better when whole leaves were placed in the callusing medium. Embryogenesis has so far not been observed in the leaf callus cultures and attempts are being made to induce somatic embryogenesis by altering the kinetin/2,4-D ratios.