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The introduction of native flora to the floriculture industry is beneficial in 2 ways. On one hand the industry which demands a continuous input of new varieties, could be satisfied. On the other hand, potential ornamentals collected from their natural habitats and exploited by the industry could be safeguarded. With this in mind the rapid multiplication of *Didymocarpus humboldtianus* was undertaken.

Leaves from plants collected in the wild and greenhouse conditions were used as explants. Leaves were surface sterilized in a 20% (v/v) clorox solution for 15 min and subsequently in 5% (v/v) clorox for 5 min. Leaf segments (1cm², also containing the midrib) were then cultured on a full strength and 1/2 strength Murashige and Skoog basal medium (MS media), with and without the addition of the cytokinin Benzyl adenine purine (BAP) at 1 mg/l. Four treatment combinations were tested for the rapid multiplication of *D. humboldtianus*.

Rapid shoot initiation from leaf segments and highest number of shoots per segment were seen in leaf segments cultured on a 1/2 strength MS medium supplemented with 1 mg/l of BAP. Shoot initiation was seen 2-3 weeks after establishment of cultures. Cultures were maintained at a temperature of 25°C and a 16 h photoperiod of 23 mol m⁻² s⁻¹.

Rooting was accomplished on a 1/2 strength MS medium devoid of hormones. Rooted plantlets 2-3 cm in height with 3-4 leaves were acclimatized in a potting medium with coir dust. Plantlets transferred to a potting medium were covered with polyethylene at the initial stages. Polyethylene covers were gradually removed and plants transferred to the nursery.

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