

## **D – 16**

*Munronia pumila* Wight (Binkohomba) is an important endemic medicinal plant found in Sri Lanka. Binkohomba is used for the treatment of skin diseases, fever, dysentery and some other medicinal purposes. Due to over exploitation, this plant is in danger of extinction. Natural regeneration of the plant is by seeds. The production as well as the rate of germination of seeds is very low. Therefore, tissue culture based propagation techniques were investigated using different explants.

Selected explants were cultured in Murashige and Skoog (MS) medium supplemented with cytokinin and auxin at different concentrations. The highest callus formation was

observed with petioles in 1.5 mg/ L BAP in dark at  $24 \pm 1^{\circ}$  C within 6 days. Leaf parts initiated callus formation after 7 days in dark in 1.1 mg/ L 2,4-D and 0.5 mg/ L BAP. Callus formation was observed in cotyledon and stem parts as well.

The fragile callus turned into green as it transferred into the light at the same incubation temperature. Multiple shoots were induced the callus in 2.0 mg/ L NAA and 5.0 mg/ L, BAP.