

## Effect of *Agrobacterium* strain and acetosyringone on transformation efficacy of *Ixora odorata* (Ixora)

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*Ixora* species are quite popular among landscape architects and gardeners as hedge plants and potted ornamentals. With this it is bound for molecular improvements in the near future to keep up with the demands of the customers. However, such improvements may not come in the absence of proper information on transformation protocols. In order to overcome this a study was carried out to optimize the transformation conditions for *Ixora odorata*. Four-month-old *Ixora* calli were co-cultivated with *Agrobacterium* strains, LBA 4404 and C58 (in the presence and absence of acetosyringone), both harboring *Bacillus thuringiensis cry* gene cloned vector pLG121Hm. After two days of co-cultivation the calli were subjected to histochemical Gus assay by incubating in 100µg/ml XglcA at 37°C in the dark. Gus positive calli were subjected to dot blot analysis by dig labeled *cry* gene. According to the transient expression percentages of the co-cultivated calli strain LBA 4404 was found to be superior to C58 and the presence of acetosyringone improved transformation efficacy. Results of the dot blot analysis showed that the stable transformation rates can vary between 10-40%.