

Application of Random Amplified Polymorphic Analysis for the Detection Genetic Variation in Tomato (*Lycopersicon Esculentum* Mill.)

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Abstract

This study was carried out to induce variations in tissue cultures of tomato (*Lycopersicon esculentum* Mill.) by using physical (gamma radiation) and chemical (sodium azide) mutagens.

Different plant growth regulators were tested for their potentials in callus induction, and shoot and root formation. Callus initiation on hypocotyl explants was achieved on Murashige and Skoog's (MS) medium supplemented with 0.1 mg/l 2, 4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2, 4-D) and 0.5 mg/l 6-benzyl-aminopurine (BAP). Shoot regeneration was performed using hypocotyl explants cultured on MS medium containing 0.8 mg/l indole-3-acetic acid (IAA) and 2.0 mg/l BAP. Rooting was achieved on MS medium supplemented with 0.4 mg/l IAA. Callus cultures and seedlings were irradiated with gamma radiation at six doses 5, 15, 25, 35, 45 or 55 mGy from ¹³⁷Cs source, or treated with sodium azide(SA) at four concentrations 0.5, 1.0, 2.0 or 3.0 mM for 1, 3 or 6 hours. Callus fresh weights were increased after irradiation with 25 mGy gamma rays and treatment with (0.5 or 3.0) mM SA for 1 hour. Shoot regeneration was observed in all irradiated hypocotyl explants. Shoot regeneration at (15 and 35) mGy was similar to the control. Root formation was observed on hypocotyls irradiated with low doses (5 or 15) mGy only, while SA inhibited shoot and root regeneration. Random amplified polymorphic DNA (RAPD) technique was performed to detect genetic mutation in extracted DNA samples. DNA was extracted from mother plant, callus tissue, irradiated calli with 15 or 45 mGy of gamma ray and calli treated with 0.5 and 3 mM SA. Twelve arbitrary 10-mer primers were used of which eight primers gave amplification products. The total number of amplification products was 27 bands, of which 22 bands were monomorphic bands which indicates the presence of genetic mutations. One of these primers, C-02, revealed polymorphism in callus tissues treated with 45 mGy of gamma radiation, 0.5 and 3.0 mM SA. Others primers, C-08 and C-09, revealed polymorphisms in irradiated callus tissues with 15 mGy gamma radiation. RAPD was found to be effective technique to detect genetic mutations in callus tissue.

Introduction

The cultivated tomato (*Lycopersicon esculentum* Mill.) belongs to the Solanaceae family. Tomato is an ideal material as a model plant for physiological and classical genetic studies. Tomato is easy to cross with wild species and has a relatively short life cycle [1]. Nowadays, tomato has also become a model plant in molecular genetics, due to its small diploid genome (2n=24) [2] and the easiness for genetic transformation [3].

Mutation techniques in combination with tissue culture methods provide a powerful technology to improve plants. It is possible to upgrade well established plants by changing specific traits by inducing mutations [4, 5]. The advantages of *in vitro* mutagenesis are a large number of cells can be uniformly treated with physical or chemical mutagens. Selection

pressure can be employed after the mutagen treatment to screen out mutant cells showing a new trait with relatively small effort, time, cost, and space requirements [6].

In mutagenesis of *in vitro* cultures, whether with chemical or physical mutagens, it is difficult to detect induced mutations in callus by morphological features [7]. Therefore, molecular markers were adopted, based on protein analysis (isozymes) or DNA polymorphisms (DNA markers) in order to detect genetic variation at the different stages of plant growth.

Random Amplified Polymorphic DNA (RAPD) assay is a modification of the basic polymerase chain reaction technique (PCR) that has been widely used as molecular markers since 1990 [8]. RAPD identification techniques can be used at any stage of plant

development. They are not affected by environmental factors [9]. Therefore RAPD assay was used in this study to detect genetic variation after exposure of callus tissue to gamma irradiation and sodium azide.

Materials and Methods

1. Source of plants:

Seeds of tomato (*Lycopersicon esculentum* Mill.) cv. "Pearson" were used as plant material. Seeds were first soaked in 70% (v/v) ethanol for three minutes and rinsed three times with sterile distilled water, then surface sterilized using 5% (v/v) of bleach for 10 minutes with vigorous shaking. They were rinsed in sterile distilled water three times then dried with sterilized filter paper. Seeds were transferred to the culture vessels containing half-strength Murashige and Skoog, (MS) medium [10]. The cultures were initially kept in darkness for 2 days at 25°C and then transferred to growth chamber under 16/8 hours (light/dark) photoperiod at light intensity of 1000 lux.

2. Callus induction:

The hypocotyls of aseptically germinated seedlings (10-12 day-old) were cut into 1 cm fragments. They were inoculated on MS medium and supplemented with different concentrations of the auxin 2, 4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2, 4-D) (0.0, 0.1, 0.5, 1.0 or 2.0) mg/l and the cytokinin 6-Benzyl-aminopurine (BAP) (0.0, 0.5, 1.0, 2.0, 3.0 or 4.0) mg/l. They were used to investigate the response of explants for callus induction.

3. Shoot regeneration:

The auxin Indole-3-acetic acid (IAA) (0.0, 0.2, 0.4 or 0.8) mg/l and the cytokinin BAP (0.0, 0.5, 1.0, 1.5, 2.0 or 2.5) mg/l were used to investigate the hypocotyl response to shoot regeneration and rooting. The cultures were incubated at 25°C for 16/8 hours (light/dark) photoperiod at light intensity of 1000 lux.

4. Irradiation of calli:

Calli and *in vitro* grown seedlings were irradiated with seven different doses (0, 5, 15, 25, 35, 45 or 55) mGy of gamma rays from a ¹³⁷Cs source (Physics Department-College of Science, University of Sulaimani), at a rate of

0.8 mGy/hour. Irradiated and control calli were transferred to the callus induction medium containing 0.1 mg/l 2, 4-D and 0.5 mg/l BAP. Irradiated and non irradiated hypocotyls were cultured on MS medium containing 0.8 mg/l IAA and 1.5 mg/l BAP.

5. Treatment of calli with sodium azide:

Calli were subjected to different concentrations of SA (0.0, 0.5, 1.0, 2.0 or 3.0 mM, pH 3.0) for three durations of exposure (1, 3 or 6) hours. Following treatment, the calli were washed with MS liquid medium and transferred to callus induction medium containing 0.1 mg/l 2, 4-D and 0.5 mg/l BAP.

6. Statistical analyses:

A completely randomized design (CRD) with 10 replicates per treatment, and then Duncan's multiple range tests were used to compare the means at a probability of ≤ 0.05 [11].

7. Genomic DNA extraction and purification Modified from: [12-15].

Approximately 2 g of tissue from callus and seedlings was submerged in 5 ml of alcohol for 30 minutes. Alcohol was allowed to evaporate, and then the tissues were ground with a mortar and pestle. The homogenized tissues were transferred to 600 μ l of prewarmed 2X CTAB DNA extraction buffer with 2% (v/v) β -mercaptoethanol in 1.5 ml Eppendorf tubes, incubated for 1 hr at 55°C in a water bath, with occasional mixing by gentle swirling.

The homogenate was removed from the water bath, an equal volume of phenol: chloroform: isoamyl alcohol (25:24:1) was added to the solution, and mixed well by shaking tubes for 15 min. The emulsified mixture was centrifuged at 13,000 rpm for 10 min, and then the aqueous phase placed into new Eppendorf tubes. Equal volume of chloroform: isoamyl alcohol (24:1) was added to aqueous phase, and then centrifuged at 13,000 rpm for 10 min. The upper phase was eluted then transferred to new tubes.

Cold ammonium acetate (7.5 M, 0.08 volumes) and cold isopropanol (0.54 volumes) were added, incubated for 1 hr at -20°C then centrifuged at 13,000 rpm for

5 min. The precipitated DNA was washed with 700 μ l of cold 70% (v/v) of ethanol, centrifuged at 13,000 rpm for 1 min and then the supernatant was discarded. DNA was air dried and dissolved in 100 μ l of TE buffer and stored at -20°C .

7. Preparation of RAPD reactions

RAPD assay was carried out on genomic DNA. Twelve arbitrary 10-mer primers were used in this study (Table (1)). The standard 25 μ l PCR reaction mixture was prepared after optimization of parameters for RAPD assay. It consisted of 1X *Taq* buffer, 2.5 mM MgCl_2 , 7.5 picomoles primer, 200 μ M dNTPs, 2 U of *Taq* polymerase and template DNA (Fermentas-USA). The standard PCR conditions used for testing the different parameters were consisted of initial denaturing temperature (3 min at 94°C) followed by 40 cycles of 1 min at 94°C , 30 seconds at 36°C (annealing temperature), 1 min and 30 sec at 72°C (extension temperature) with a final extension of 7 min at 72°C . Amplification products were separated on 2% agarose gel in 1X TBE buffer [16].

Table (1)

Arbitrary 10-mer Primers used in this study.

<i>*Primer name</i>	<i>Primer sequence (5'-3')</i>
A-02	TGCCGAGCTG
A-05	AGGGGTCTTG
A-012	TCGGCGATAG
A-015	TTCCGAACCC
B-04	GGACTGGAGT
B-10	CTGCTGGGAC
C-02	GTGAGGCGTC
C-07	GTCCCGACGA
C-09	CTCACCGTCC
C-08	TGGACCGGTG
C-12	TGTCATCCCC
C-18	TGAGTGGG TG

**All primers were purchased from Sigma-Germany*

Results and Discussion

Callus induction

The hypocotyl explants grown in most media formed callus within 10 days. Callus

started from the wounded end and spread toward the middle region of the explants.

Table (2) shows the effect of 2, 4-D and BAP concentrations in combination on callus fresh weight forming on hypocotyl explants cultured on MS medium for 30 days. Callus formation was observed in all 2, 4-D and BAP combination treatments. However, maximum callus weight (2.28 g) was obtained when the hypocotyl explants were cultured on MS medium containing 0.1 mg/l 2, 4-D and 0.5 mg/l BAP (Fig. (1)).

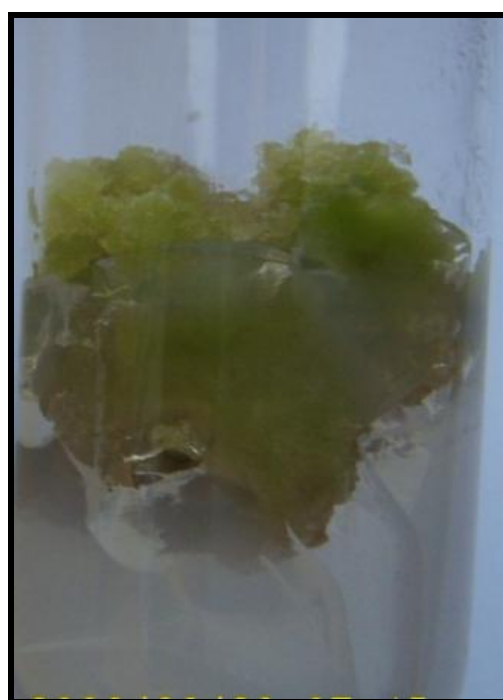


Fig. (1) Callus induction on hypocotyl explants produced on MS medium supplemented with 0.1 mg/l 2, 4-D and 0.5 mg/l BAP.

Table (2)
Effect of different concentrations of 2, 4-D and BAP and their interaction on callus fresh weight (g) initiated on hypocotyl explants of *L. esculentum*, 30 days in culture.

2,4-D (mg/l)	BAP (mg/l)					
	0.0	0.5	1.0	2.0	3.0	4.0
0.0	0h*	0.23 gh	1.05 cde	1.09 cde	1.09 cde	1.39 cd
0.1	0.34 gh	2.28 a	1.93 b	1.18 cde	1.26 cde	1.08 cde
0.5	1.19 cde	1.28 cd	1.44 c	0.97 cde	1.09 cde	0.75 ef
1.0	1.43 c	0.88 de	0.48 fg	0.35 gh	0.27 gh	0.11 gh

*Means designated with the same letter(s) do not differ significantly from each other according to Duncan's multiple range tests, $P \leq 0.05$. This will apply for subsequent tables.

A reduction in callus weight was noticed with progressive increasing of 2, 4-D and BAP concentrations. It is obvious from (Table (2)) that both 2, 4-D as well as BAP were essential for callus induction in *L. esculentum* but significantly were more effective when used in combinations. These results are in agreement with the results of others [17-20].

Skoog and Miller [21] suggested that at balanced ratio of auxin and cytokinin, the tissue grows as disorganized callus.

Shoot regeneration

Shoot regeneration was obtained by culturing *in vitro* grown hypocotyls on different levels of IAA and BAP. Regeneration started nearly 10 days after cultivation. The number and length of shoots differed depending on the type and concentration of growth regulators added to the regeneration medium.

The results obtained in the present work indicate that auxin and cytokinin in combination provide the higher number of shoots/explant than if they were added separately (Table (3)). The optimum ration was 0.8 mg/l IAA and 2.0 mg/l BAP as indicated by number of shoots/explant produced (Fig.(2)). Skoog and Miller [21] suggested that shoot or root regeneration is dependent on the ration of auxin to cytokinin in the culture medium. Low auxin to cytokinin ratio lead to the formation of shoots, whereas high auxin to cytokinin ratio stimulate the formation of roots. The present data are in agreement with those of others [3, 17, 22-26]

who determined that the most efficient medium for *in vitro* regeneration of tomato is that which supplemented with low concentration of IAA and higher levels of BAP.

Table (3)
Effect of different concentrations of IAA and BAP and their interaction on shoots number/ explant obtained from hypocotyl of *L. esculentum*, six weeks in culture.

IAA (mg/l)	BAP (mg/l)					
	0.0	0.5	1.0	1.5	2.0	2.5
0.0	0 b*	0 b	0.1 b	0.88 ab	0.56 ab	0.06 b
0.2	0.49 ab	0.86 ab	0.64 ab	0.14 b	0.44 ab	0.4 ab
0.4	0.46 ab	1.08 ab	0.1 b	0.72 ab	0.22 ab	0.66 ab
0.8	0.3 ab	0 b	1.12 ab	1.18 a	1.06 ab	0.62 ab



Fig. (2) Shoot regeneration obtained on hypocotyl explants of *L. esculentum* on MS medium supplemented with 0.8 mg/l IAA and 2.0 mg/l BAP, six weeks in culture.

Sheeja *et al.* [26] examined IAA, BAP and Kin on tomato shoot regeneration, a low level of IAA with high levels of BAP or Kin was the optimum.

In terms of shoot elongation, in the presence of IAA and BAP together in the medium, shoot elongation varied (Table (4)).

Table (4)

Effect of different concentrations of IAA and BAP and their interaction on shoot length (cm)/ explant obtained from hypocotyl of *L. esculentum*, six weeks in culture.

IAA (mg/l)	BAP (mg/l)					
	0.0	0.5	1.0	1.5	2.0	2.5
0.0	0 d *	0 d	0.8 bcd	0.8 bcd	1.2 bcd	0.2 cd
0.2	0.6 cd	1 bcd	1.2 bcd	0.4 cd	1.2 bcd	1.6 bc
0.4	0.4 cd	0.8 bcd	0.4 cd	2 b	0.4 cd	0.8 bcd
0.8	0.2 cd	0 d	1 bcd	1.2 bcd	3.2 a	0.8 bcd

The highest shoot length (1.18 cm) was obtained at 0.8 mg/l IAA and 1.5 mg/l BAP. Shoot development was neither observed on hormone-free medium nor media containing 0.5 mg/l BAP, and also, 0.8 mg/l IAA

combined with 0.5 mg/l BAP. It is to be mentioned that shoot elongation on *L. esculentum* hypocotyls is dependent on the application of exogenous auxin and cytokinin. Tran Thanh Van [27] and Baraldi *et al.* [28] suggested that the most important step in regeneration of any plant material through tissue cultures depends on the successful adjustment of the type and combination of plant growth regulators. It is worth mentioning that hypocotyls of 1 cm long were transferred to MS medium supplemented with IAA, BAP or their combination; rhizogenesis occurred followed by elongation of the shoots. Some hypocotyl explants started rooting directly without forming shoots. Rooting was recorded after six weeks of culture.

Table (5) represents the interaction between IAA and BAP on the number of roots/explant. The response for rooting was poor to IAA and BAP combinations. No root formation was observed when the medium supplemented with high amount of BAP. Also, there was no root formation on control treatment.

These results agree with those of (Öktem *et al.*) [3]. The highest number of roots/explant on a medium supplemented with IAA and BAP combination was recorded at 0.4 mg/l IAA and 0.0 mg/l BAP; it was 10.4 (Table (5), Fig. (3)).

Table (5)

Effect of the different concentrations of IAA and BAP and their interaction on root number/explant grown on MS medium, six weeks in culture.

IAA (mg/l)	BAP (mg/l)					
	0.0	0.5	1.0	1.5	2.0	2.5
0.0	0 e*	0.6 de	0.4 e	1 cde	0 e	0 e
0.2	3.8 bc	1.4 cde	1 cde	1.6 cde	0 e	1 cde
0.4	10.4 a	3.6 bcd	1 cde	1.2 cde	1 cde	0.4 e
0.8	4.8 b	2.6 bcde	2 cde	3.2 bcde	2.8 bcde	0 e



Fig. (3) Root regeneration obtained on shoots obtained from hypocotyl explants cultured on MS medium containing 0.4 mg/l IAA, six weeks in culture.

It was apparent that a low amount of exogenous IAA was sufficient to promote rooting on tomato *in vitro* shoots.

Cytokinins and IAA have antagonistic roles in root development; auxin promotes the formation of lateral and adventitious roots, whereas cytokinins inhibit root formation and reverses the IAA effect [29].

Induction of mutation in callus cultures

Results indicated a decrease in callus fresh weight with increasing dose of gamma radiation. Conversely, a sudden stimulatory effect was obtained, as revealed by the slight increase in callus mass (2.12g) at a radiation dose of (25mGy). Maximum reduction in callus fresh weight was observed at 55 mGy (Fig.(4)).

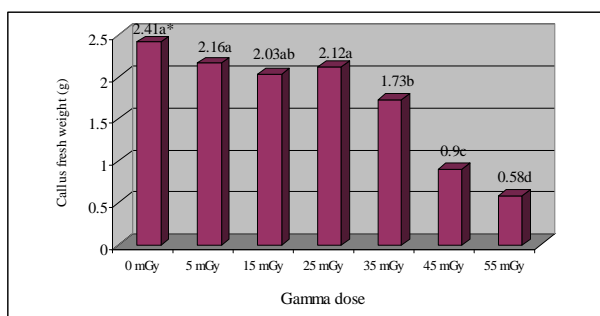


Fig. (4) Influence of gamma irradiation on callus fresh weight cultured on MS medium containing 0.1 mg/l 2, 4-D and 0.5 mg/l BAP, after 30 days of irradiation.

Several studies investigated the effects of gamma irradiation on plant cell. Gamma irradiation caused inhibition of tissue culture growth with failure of RNA and protein synthesis in bean [30].

Similar results in reduction of callus weight due to the effect of gamma radiation on bean [30], barley [31], sweet potato [32], sunflower [33], and sugarcane [34], have been documented.

It was reported that the causes in callus growth retardation were the result of arresting cell division in mitosis [35], physiological damage or protein oxidation [36]. Gamma radiation causes oxidative stress and affects biomolecules by causing conformational changes, oxidation, rupture of covalent bonds, and formation of free radicals. The hydroxyl and superoxide anion radicals that are generated by radiation could modify the molecular properties of the proteins causing oxidative modifications of the proteins. Chemical changes of the proteins that are caused by gamma irradiation are fragmentation, cross-linking, aggregation and oxidation caused by oxygen radicals which are generated by water radiolysis [37].

Both beneficial and harmful effects on callus fresh weight were observed after SA treatment. Callus fresh weight was affected by SA in all treatments (Table (6)).

Table (6)

Effect of different concentrations of sodium azide at three periods on callus fresh weight (g) of *L. esculentum* cultures grown on MS medium containing 0.1 mg/l 2,4-D and 0.5 mg/l BAP, 30 days after treatment.

SA (mM)	Time (hour)		
	1	3	6
0.0	1.72 a*	1.59 a	1.16 b
0.5	1.25 b	0.12 c	0.11 c
1.0	0.14 c	0.18 c	0.07 c
2.0	0.20 c	0.21 c	0.16 c
3.0	1.25 b	0.12 c	0.06 c

Previously, Ganesan *et al.* [38] recorded stimulation of cotton somatic embryogenic by SA treatment and suggested that callus stimulation was due to altering gene expression where new isozymes bands appeared in treated cultures. Hofmann *et al.* [39] subjected soybean embryogenic culture to ethyl methyl sulphonate (EMS) (0, 1, 3, 10 or 30 mM), and found a decrease in survival rate of embryogenic culture with increasing concentrations of EMS.

Induction of mutation in regenerated shoots

In control and irradiated plants, regeneration was observed in all dosages. However, there is no significant difference between the control plant and those were irradiated with 15 mGy or 35 mGy (Fig. 5). Shoot number/ hypocotyl in explants that were irradiated with (5, 25, 45 or 55) mGy reduced to (1.2, 0.4, 1 and 0.4), respectively. The results proved that the reduction in shoot number/explant was not proportional with increasing gamma dosages. Number of regenerated plantlets irradiated with 15 mGy or 35 mGy approached the same number of control.

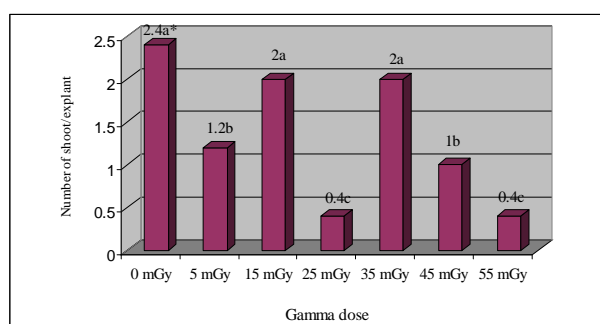


Fig. (5) Influence of gamma irradiation on shoot number obtained from 11 irradiated hypocotyl explants of *L. esculentum* cultured on MS medium supplemented with 0.8 mg/l IAA and 1.5 mg/l BAP, six weeks in culture.

The influence of gamma irradiation on shoot length/explant is shown in (Fig. (6)).

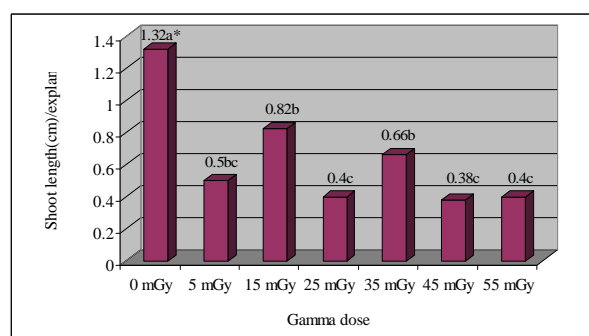


Fig. (6) Influence of gamma irradiation on shoot length obtained from irradiated hypocotyl explant of *L. esculentum* cultured on MS medium supplemented with 0.8 mg/l IAA and 1.5 mg/l BAP, six weeks in culture.

The decrease in shoot length/explant in relation to the control was observed in every treated culture. The shoot length/explant was high in plants which irradiated with 15 mGy and 35 mGy as compared to other irradiated plants.

Maximum shoot lengths (0.82 and 0.66) cm was recorded at the gamma doses of 15 and 35 mGy, respectively. The effects of 25, 45, and 55 mGy were equal in the reduction of shoot length/explant. It is clear that the reduction in shoot length was not related to the doses of gamma.

Root formation

To estimate the effectiveness of gamma irradiation on root initiation, irradiated hypocotyls were cultured on MS medium for six weeks. Root number/explant was highly affected by gamma irradiation as shown in (Fig. (7)). There was a significant difference in root number/explant between control hypocotyls and irradiated ones. Roots were observed only at 5 and 15 mGy; the root number/explant was 6 and 12, respectively. On other hand, other gamma doses caused inhibition in root formation.

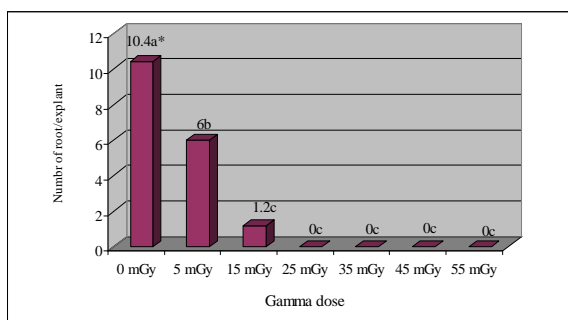


Fig.(7) Influence of gamma irradiation on root number obtained from irradiated hypocotyl explants of *L. esculentum* cultured on MS medium, six weeks in culture.

Random amplified polymorphic DNA (RAPD)

RAPD technique was used to investigate polymorphisms at DNA levels in tomato mother plant, callus tissue, irradiated calli with 15 or 45 mGy of gamma rays, and treated calli with 0.5 and 3 mM SA (Fig. (8, a, b, and c)). DNA was amplified with 12 random 10-mer primers. Out of these, only 8 primers produced clear reproducible bands. The total amplification products generated by these primers were 27 bands ranged from 220 bp in primer C-07 to approximately 1500 bp in primers A-015 and C-09. Monomorphic bands were generated by the primers A-05, A-015, B-10, C-07 and C-18. Other primers, C-02, C-08 and C-09, revealed polymorphic bands.

The obtained results confirmed the usefulness and suitability of RAPD technique for screening of mutations after application of gamma radiation and SA on callus tissues. There were no polymorphisms between the mother plant and non treated callus, this indicating the genetic stability of the callus tissue after subculturing on MS medium containing 0.1 mg/l 2, 4-D and 0.5 mg/l BAP.

Primers (C-02, C-08, and C-09) have revealed polymorphic fragments in irradiated calli, while primer, C-02, generated polymorphism in treated calli with SA. These polymorphisms indicate the presence of genetic differences in tomato calli treated with gamma radiation and SA. It is possible that these mutations have occurred in different loci. Sources of polymorphisms in RAPD assay may include a base change within priming site sequence, deletions of priming site, insertions that render priming sites too distant to support

amplification and deletions or insertions that change the size of a DNA fragment without preventing its amplification [8]. Gamma radiation induces mutations by ejecting atom from the tissues and it causes addition, deletion, transition, and transversion in DNA. SA causes transitions in DNA nucleotides [37].

Induction of mutation in plant was observed by many investigators who detected the polymorphisms by RAPD assay. Atanassov *et al.* [40] used gamma rays and SA to create somaclonal mutation in barley. They suggested that RAPD assay is a sensitive and representative approach to distinguish the variability created by tissue culture and mutagenesis.

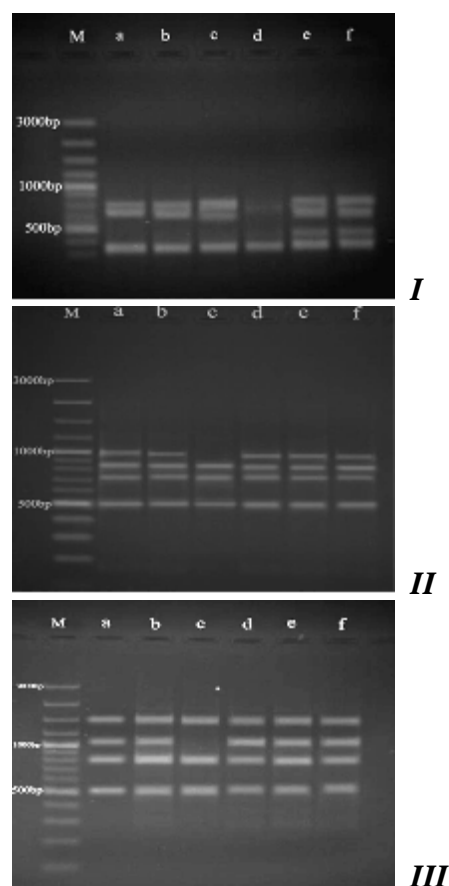


Fig. (8) RAPD profile of *L. esculentum* generated by primers I: C-02, II:C-08, III: C-09, M=100 bp ladder, lane (a) mother plant, (b) callus tissue, (c) irradiated calli with 15 (d) 45 mGy of gamma rays, (e) treated calli with 0.5 and (f) 3.0 mM sodium azide.

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الخلاصة

تهدف الدراسة الحالية الى تحفيز التغيرات الوراثية في المزارع النسيجية لنبات الطماطم (*Lycopersicon esculentum* Mill.) من خلال توظيف المطفرين الفيزيائي أشعة كاما والكيميائي مادة أزيد الصوديوم. تم اختبار منظمات نمو نباتية مختلفة في قابليتها على تحفيز نشوء الكالس وتكوين الاعضاء من نموات خضرية وجذور. حفز الكالس على النشوء من السوق الجينية السفلية على وسط ماراشيج وسكوج (MS) المجهز ب (0.1 ملغم/لتر) من الاوكسين (2, 4-D)2, 4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (0.5 ملغم/ لتر) من السايوتوكاينين 6-benzyl-aminopurine (BAP). ظهرت النموات الخضرية على الاجزاء تحت الفلقية في وسط (MS) المزود (0.8 ملغم/لتر) من الاوكسين indole-3-acetic acid (IAA) ومع (2ملغم/لتر) من (BAP). كما حفزت الجذور على نفس الوسط ولكن باضافة (0.4 ملغم/لتر) من (IAA).

شجعت مزارع الكالس والبادرات باشعة كاما وبواقع ست جرعات (5، 15، 25، 35، 45 أو 55) مليغري من المصدر ¹³⁷Cs. كما عولمت بالمطفر أزيد الصوديوم في تجربة أخرى بالتراكيز (0.5، 1، 2 أو 3) مليمولر لمدة (1، 3 أو 6) ساعات. ازداد وزن الكالس الطري عند المعاملة (25) مليغري من أشعة كاما وكذلك عند التركيزين (0.5 أو 3) مليمولر من أزيد الصوديوم لمدة ساعة. ظهرت النموات الخضرية على كافة الاجزاء النباتية المفصلة من الاجزاء تحت الفلقية التي عولمت بالاشعاع. ولم تختلف المعاملة بالجرعتين (15 أو 35) مليغري عن معاملة السيطرة. لوحظ تكوين الجذور على الاجزاء تحت الفلقية عند المعاملة بالجرع الواطنة من الاشعاع (5 أو 15) مليغري فقط، في الوقت الذي ثبتت فيه المعاملة بأزيد الصوديوم ظهور النموات الخضرية و الجذور.

وظفت تقانة المؤشرات الجزيئية للدنا (RAPD) للتحري عن الطفرات الوراثية المحتملة في عينات من مستخلص الدنا. أستخلص الاخير من عينات بادرات النبات الام أو من أنسجة الكالس المعرضة لجرعات اشعاعية

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مقدارها (15 أو 45) مليغري وكذلك من الكالس المعامل بالتركيزين (0.5 أو 3) مليمولر من أزايد الصوديوم. استعمل في الدراسة 12 باديء, أعطت ثمانية منها منتجات تضاعف. بلغ العدد الكلي لمنتجات التضاعف 27 حزمة. أما الحزم المنفرده فكانت 22 حزمة. مما يدل على حدوث طفرات وراثية في خمسة منها. ففي الباديء C-02 ظهر تضاعفا في أنسجة الكالس المعاملة بـ (45) مليغري و كذلك المعاملة بالتركيزين (0.5 أو 3) مليمولر من أزايد الصوديوم. وأظهر البادئان C-08 و C-09 تضاعفا في أنسجة الكالس المشع بالجرعة (15) مليغري. وجد بأن تقانة RAPD كانت فعالة في التحري عن الطفرات الوراثية المحتملة في أنسجة الكالس.