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Research article**Sterile Tissue Preparation and Callus Induction of *Curcuma longa* Linn.**

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Abstract *Curcuma longa* Linn. (family Zingiberaceae), commonly known as 'turmeric', is native to Southeast Asia. Turmeric has been used for color, flavor as a spice in cuisine and employed for treatment of various diseases. The major component in yellow-pigmented fraction of turmeric is curcuminoids. Curcuminoid production in callus of *C. longa* Linn. is our focus of study. Sterile techniques to obtain germ-free of *C. longa* Linn. explants were investigated and the results showed that immersing rhizome buds in 70% ethanol for 5 min, followed by 0.10% HgCl₂ for 10 min offered approximately 66% survival rate. Multiple shoots were generated from the aseptic rhizome explants cultured on Murashige and Skoog (MS) agar medium fortified with 3.00 µM of 6-Benzylaminopurine (BA) and 0.50 µM of 1-Naphthaleneacetic acid (NAA) at 25 ± 2°C under a photoperiod of 16 h light and 8 h dark. The sterile leaf sheath and root were subsequently used for callus induction which produced various responses when cultured on MS agar medium fortified with different concentrations of 2,4-dichlorophenoxy acetic acid (2, 4-D), Thidiazuron (TDZ) and BA. The highest induction yields of friable callus were obtained from leaf sheath segments cultured on MS agar medium fortified with 0.50 mg/l 2, 4-D which are the conditions proposed for successful production of callus culture of *C. longa* Linn.

Keywords: Callus induction, *Curcuma longa* Linn., Turmeric, Plant tissue culture

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