

Mass propagation of *Dendrocalamus asper* through tissue culture and comparison of selected morphological, physical and anatomical features with seed raised plants



by

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Thesis submitted to the University of Sri Jayewardenepura for the award of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Botany on 31st January 2016.

DECLARATION BY THE CANDIDATE

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TO

Sasan putha,
Harithashi duwa,

§

Amma

Who sacrifice more than me
Towards this effort.

Together we made it...

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V. LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

BAP; BA	6-benzylaminopurine
DBH	Diameter at breast height
FYM	Farm Yard Manure
GA ₃	Gibberellic acid
IBA	Indole-3-butyric acid
IAA	Indole-3-acetic acid
Kin	Kinetin
OSB	Oriented Strand Board
OSL	Oriented Strand Lumber
MS	Murashige and Skoog's (1962) medium
MSL	Mean Sea Level
NAA	α -naphthaleneacetic acid
TDZ	Thidiazuron
2,4-D	2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid

VI. ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all who has been involved in completion of my theses. First of all I wish to express my sincere gratitude to my supervisors Prof. (Mrs.) W.T.P.S.K. Senarath, Head of the Department, Department of Botany, Faculty of Applied Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura and Prof. Hiran Amarasekara, Former Head of the Department, Professor, Department of Forestry and Environmental Sciences, Faculty of Applied Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, for their relentless guidance, continuous monitoring, supervision and critical comments and constant encouragement for the completion of the theses.

My sincere gratitude is also extended to my previous and present working places throughout the course of this study, Touchwood Investments PLC who initially financed for the USJP-TOUCHWOOD Biotechnology Research Project. Coordinating Secretariat for Science Technology and Innovation Sri Lanka (COSTI) where I had the opportunity to get good exposure to scientific community and literature for my research. Borneo Exotics pvt. LTD, for offering me a career opportunity at a time of need.

I wish to express my regards to everyone in all field establishment sites, without their assistance this work would be an uphill task.

I must thankfully remember Mr. Antonios Levissianos, Senior Industrial Development Officer and Dr. Victor Brias, Chief Technical Advisor of United Nations Industrial Development Organization for their encouragement to complete my studies.

I wish to thank non-academic staffs of Faculty of Graduate Studies, Department of Chemistry, Department of Zoology, Department of Forestry and Environmental Sciences and everyone at the Department of Botany specially Mr. Wijesinghe and Mr. R. Kandambi, Senior Technical Officers for their assistance.

My thanks also extended to Mr. Udara Dissanayake and Miss. Samangi Hewage for assisting in statistical analysis and for technical support.

I also wish to thank Miss. R. Samarawickrama, Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Miss K. Peeris and Miss. V. Rajapakse, Education Assistants of Open University of Sri Lanka for providing me valuable references for this work. I also grateful to Jiffy Products, Sri Lanka and Techno-Aircon for their valuable support and material supply to complete this work.

My deep appreciations go out to my friends at the tissue culture laboratory Mr. Arosha Buddhapriya, Mr. Sanjika Herath, Mr. C. Somarathne, Miss. Thejani, Miss. Anuththara Abeywickrama, who helped me in numerous ways.

Last but not least my heartiest thank goes to my two kids Sasan and Harithashi who lost their fatherly care many times and my wife for understanding and bearing every difficulty at home and my father who single handedly raised six of us for long thirty years and still wishing the best things to happen on our way.

Mass propagation of *Dendrocalamus asper* through tissue culture and comparison of selected morphological, physical and anatomical features with seed raised plants

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ABSTRACT

Dendrocalamus asper is an introduced bamboo species adapted well into intermediate climatic conditions in Sri Lanka which has many uses of high economic and environmental importance. The objective of the present study was to develop a protocol for *in vitro* mass propagation, selecting suitable areas to grow the plant in the country and to investigate some of the macroscopic and microscopic properties of the micropropagated plants grown in the field to recommend suitability of the species as an alternative for growing demand of wood and wood based products.

Suitability of nodal segments from secondary branches of nursery maintained plants as explants were experimented as it is the most commonly available material, however higher level of microbial contaminations were observed. Therefore nodal segments from *in vitro* germinated seedlings were used. Maximum seed germination percentage achieved was 23.7%. MS with 1.0 mg/L BA was the best medium for shoot induction with high number of shoots (16.87 ± 0.52), higher shoot length (4.12 ± 0.27 cm) and with a mean of 4.80 ± 0.33 leaves after 6 weeks of incubation. MS medium supplemented with 2.0 mg/L BA produced a mean number of 11.73 ± 1.59 of shoots with 9.21 ± 0.55 cm mean shoot length and 12.2 ± 1.21 of mean leaf number after 6 weeks of incubation. It was observed that the shoot multiplication varies with the number of shoots in a cluster and three shoots per cluster produced higher number of elongated shoots with higher

number of leaves. Liquid medium was found to be more suitable than solidified medium for multiplication. It was observed that 100% rooting could be obtained in the $\frac{1}{2}$ MS medium supplemented with 2.0 mg/L IBA after 6 weeks of incubation. Acclimatization could be achieved by transferring tissue cultured plantlets to 50 mm³ coir pellets and maintaining them in the humid chamber for one month and gradually exposing to 70% shade in the following month. Then, plantlets were transferred to potting mixture consisted of sand:compost:coir dust (1:1:1) and obtained 100% survival rate.

The growth pattern of tissue cultured plants in the field was compared with seed raised plants after one year of establishment in the field. Tissue cultured plants showed better growth in the field with significantly higher mean number of shoots, mean shoot length and the mean leaf number than seed raised plants. The increase in chlorophyll contents of both plant types was observed with time and slightly higher values observed in tissue cultured plants. In order to find suitable climatic area for the establishment of large scale plantations of *D. asper* in Sri Lanka, tissue cultured plants were established in twelve sites in different Geo-climatic zones. After one year of growth, they established well and showed healthy growth in all tested sites, however, significant differences in growth were observed at different sites. Gannoruwa area was found as the best for the growth of *D. asper*. Drier areas such as Jaffna and Hambantota also indicated that, plants could be well established, but showed low performances compare to the other sites. Some of the macroscopic and microscopic characteristics of four and half years old matured tissue cultured plants were compared with similar aged seed raised plants and indicated tissue cultured plants have similar or better qualities which proves the suitability of the end product for its wide array of commercially valuable uses. The protocol developed was able to reduce the cost of a plant to LKR 4.50.