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Recovery of BASTA®-Resistant *Sedum erythrostichum* via *Agrobacterium*-mediated Transformation

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Objectives

Sedums are used as ground cover, rock gardens and flower borders. In this study, the genetic transformation of *Sedum erythrostichum* through *Agrobacterium*-mediated co-cultivation was studied by introducing a herbicide-resistant gene (PAT) and the reporter gene (GUS). This study marks the first time genetic transformation of succulent *Sedum*.

Materials and Methods

1. Plant materials: *Sedum erythrostichum* Miq.
2. Hormonal condition for shoot induction: MS + 0.5 mg/l NAA + 2.0 mg/l kinetin + 3% sucrose
3. *Agrobacterium* co-cultivation: We obtained multiful shoots from the leaf explants in the selection medium: MS basal salt, 25 mg/l kanamycin, 300 mg/l cefotaxime, 0.5 mg/l NAA and 2.0 mg/l Kinetin.
4. Analysis of transgenic plantlets: Histochemical GUS assay, PCR analysis, Southern blot and RNA gel blot analysis.
5. Plantlets transferred to soil and sprayed with herbicide: Plantlets with both shoots and roots were transferred to the soil. And then Bialaphos (Basta®) at 200 mg/l PPT was sprayed five times on the transgenic and non-transgenic plants within a week. After three weeks, survival of plantlets was investigated.

Results and Discussion

1. Hormonal condition for adventitious bud induction: Fifty six percent of explants produced adventitious buds on medium with 0.5 mg/l NAA and 2.0 mg/l BA. About 7.1 ± 1.7 buds were produced in each explant.
2. Genetic transformation: To select transformed buds, leaf explants were transferred to the medium with 300 mg/l cefotaxim and 25 mg/l kanamycin for three weeks and transferred to the hormone-free selection medium and sub-cultured three times to the same medium. Twenty four (3.75%) of the total 640 infected leaf explants produced kanamycin-resistant adventitious shoots.
3. Analysis of transgenic plantlets: Sixteen explants among selected 24 explants that survived on selection medium were proven to be GUS-positive. PAT, NPT II and GUS genes were detected in transgenic plantlets using PCR. Southern hybridization analysis was carried out on the GUS positive transgenic plantlets. All these plantlets showed a single hybridization band with PAT probe. Expression of the PAT gene was confirmed using RNA blot analysis in the transgenic sample, but not in the non-transformed plants.
4. Soil transfer: Ninety-five percent of the plantlets survived after soil transfer for three months.
5. Herbicide spraying: All GUS positive transgenic *Sedum* plantlets resulted in strong resistance to 200 mg/l PPT of Basta® spraying.