

CALLUS INDUCTION FROM NODAL SEGMENTS OF THE *ANNONA SQUAMOSA* L.

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The calogenesis induction and rapid cell multiplication are fundamental requirements in plant biotechnology. This work aimed to develop an efficient method of callus induction from explants of the *Annona squamosa* L. For the callus *in vitro* induction of *A. squamosa* L., nodal segments (0,5-1,0 cm) were disinfected, in laminar chamber, by standard methods using ethanol/sodium hypochloride and then rinsed three times with sterile water (10 min each) and inoculated in tubes containing 35 mL of MS medium, supplemented with 100 mg.L⁻¹ myo-inositol, 3% sucrose, 0,7% agar and various concentrations (mg.L⁻¹) and combinations of benzilaminopurine (BAP) and naphthaleneacetic acid (NAA), the treatments. The pH of medium was adjusted to 5,8 and autoclaving during 15 min at 120°C. The tubes were kept at 25±1°C in the dark. There were seven treatments (BAP+NAA), five replications, each replication being made up of one tube and four explants/tube, in completely randomized design. The effects of treatments were evaluated from Tukey test at 5%. After three weeks was analyzed who the best percentual callus formation and embryogenic callus were obtained using media with BAP 1,25 mg.L⁻¹+ NAA 1,50 mg.L⁻¹. Embryogenic callus obtained, are characterized by their white to cream colour and their nodular structure. These results suggest that the callus *in vitro* production is possible and will suport projects with *A. squamosa* L., especially micropropagation.

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Key words: *Annona squamosa*, Benzilaminopurine, Callus, Naphthaleneacetic acid.