

PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF *Heliconia latispatha* ZYGOTIC EMBRYOS  
MICROPROPAGATION PROCESS

Felix,A.M.S<sup>1</sup>; Guimarães,W.N.R.<sup>1</sup>; Pessoa,C.deO.<sup>1</sup>; Loges,V.<sup>1</sup>; Paulino,P.M.deS.<sup>2</sup>;  
Melo,G.M.<sup>2</sup>; Câmara,T.R.<sup>2</sup>; Silva,C.U.deC.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Agronomy, Laboratory of Floriculture,UFRPE, PE; <sup>2</sup>Department of  
Biology, Laboratory of Vegetable Tissue Culture, UFRPE, PE.

*Heliconia* is a genus of great economical importance to the floriculture agribusiness. The objective of this work was to evaluate the cultivation in vitro of zygotic embryos of varieties *H. latispatha* 'Distans' and 'Red-Yellow Gyro'. Cultivars ripe fruits were collected from the Heliconia Collection of the UFRPE. It was take to the Laboratory of Vegetable Tissue Culture-UFRPE. In laminate flow camera, it was submerged in alcohol 70%, in solution of hipoclorito of sodium 3% and 1,5% respectively, containing tween 20%, following by wash with sterilized water. Embryos were extracted of the seeds and cultivated in 1/2 MS environment, with 2.5mg.L<sup>-1</sup> of BAP and with 30g of sucrose. The evaluations were accomplished each 15 days after inoculation, being determined: number of leaves, roots and height of the plant formed starting from the buds. The cultivars presented significant development, and 30 days after inoculation was observed the formation of the aerial part and roots. The environment used favored development of the plants obtained. These results demonstrated the potential use of this zigotic embryos methodology in other genotypes. Nevertheless, to recommend the use of zigotic embryos as explants in the process of heliconia micropropagation, is necessary the study of genetic variability among the plants obtained.

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Key words: Floriculture, Heliconiaceae, MS environment.