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Combination of 6-Benzylaminopurine and Thidiazuron Promotes Highly Efficient Shoot Regeneration from Cotyledonary Node of Mature Peanut (*Arachis hypogaea* L.) Cultivars

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ABSTRACT

Efficient *in vitro* plantlet regeneration is an important step to successfully transform genes for the improvement of agronomic traits. A combination of 6-benzylaminopurine (BAP) and thidiazuron (TDZ) plant growth regulators was applied to evaluate shoot regeneration capacity whereas α -naphthalene acetic acid (NAA) combination with 6-benzylaminopurine (BAP), and 2, 4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2, 4-D) with 6-benzylaminopurine were tested to optimize root induction for two peanut cultivars. The result showed combination (BAP with TDZ) was found to be effective in promoting shoot. The highest shoot regeneration frequency (93%) was obtained on a medium supplemented with 4 mg/L BAP and 0.5 mg/L TDZ while an average regeneration frequency (87%) was achieved in a medium containing combinations of 2 mg/L BAP with 1 mg/L TDZ. The shooting rate increased for both cultivars as the concentrations of BAP increased and TDZ decreased. The highest rooting rate (93%) was obtained on a medium supplemented with 3.5 mg/L NAA with 2.5 mg/L BAP for both cultivars. The rooting rate increased as the concentration of auxin to cytokinin ratio increased. The maximum rooting rate (83%) was obtained on MS medium supplemented with 0.3 mg/L 2, 4-D with 0.2 mg/L BAP for the cultivar N3. The result indicated that BAP with NAA was much better than BAP with 2, 4-D in rooting rate. Thus, the protocol developed was genotype independent and effective for peanut tissue culture.

KEYWORDS

Auxin; cotyledonary node; cytokinins; *in vitro*; peanut

1 Introduction

Peanut (*Arachis hypogaea* L.) is an oil-bearing legume crop. It is an allotetraploid derived between two diploid peanut *Arachis duranensis* (AA) and *Arachis ipaensis* (BB) [1]. The total production of 17,519, 600 tonnes volume per year peanut is produced in China. Therefore, China is the first in the world in production of peanuts [2]. Next to soybean, the peanut is an important oil-bearing legume and is widely grown in Africa and Asia. Peanut seeds are sources of carbohydrates, protein, and oil as major constituents [3]. It has an antioxidant capacity [4].



An efficient *in vitro* regeneration system is a basic and important step to transform genes and it is highly advantageous to apply gene-editing techniques in order to produce transgenic plants with the desired trait. In response to growth regulators like 2, 4-D, and naphthalene acetic acid (NAA) explant sources such as embryo axes produce roots [5]. To produce regenerant plantlets of peanut cotyledonary node used continuously [5,6]. In order to produce independently transformed plants in legumes or any other crops using a cotyledonary node as a source of explant is considered preferable to other sources since it is time-efficient and responsive to genetic transformation [5–10].

Earlier *in vitro* regeneration reports have shown varied shoot regeneration rates using different explant sources [5,6,11]. The main factors for variation of regeneration rate or frequency were the source of explant, the type and concentration of plant growth regulators used. For instance, regeneration rates of 80% to 81% [6], 86% and 98% [5], 81.5% [5] were few among several reports for the peanut plant. There were some *in vitro* regeneration reports in peanut and other crops using various explant sources including a cotyledonary node in mungbean [7,8], a cotyledonary node in black gram [9,12], deembryonated cotyledons in black gram [13], plumular apices in chickpea [14], immature embryonic axes and cotyledonary nodes in soybean [15], the cotyledonary node in soybean [10], cotyledon in oilseed crop [16], embryo in wheat [17], hypocotyl and cotyledon in cabbage [18], leaf base segment in millet [19], cotyledon and hypocotyl in *Brassica oleracea* [20], the nodal segment in *Cinnamomum camphora* [21], cotyledon and cotyledonary node in *Toona ciliata* [22].

In peanut epicotyl [23], hypocotyl [24], somatic embryos [25], and cotyledonary node [5,6,26,27] were reported effective in *in vitro* peanut regeneration. However, the plant variety, culture media, culture condition, and source of explant had been reported as the factors that influence tissue culture system or condition [28]. Some reports indicated that cultivated peanut is considered to be relatively recalcitrant to tissue culture [5,27,29]. Tissue culture is used widely throughout the development of plants in general and peanut in particular. Peanut culture is very important to produce plantlets from cells or tissue, which are then used for cloning, somaclonal variations and to develop transgenic plants with important agronomic traits. Hence, the development of an effective and reproducible protocol for peanuts is very important in order to genetically engineer peanut crop plants for further improvement of economically important agronomic traits. To our knowledge, so far there is no previously developed regeneration system for the Chinese peanut cultivar Yu-hua-14 and N3 using cotyledonary node as a source of explant. Therefore, the aim of this study was to evaluate the effect of different combinations of BAP and TDZ on shoot regeneration capacity in peanut cultivars.

2 Materials and Methods

2.1 Plant Material and Cultivar Selection

Mature, dry, and healthy seeds of peanut cultivars Yu-hua-14 and N3 were used in this study. The seeds were obtained from the department of crop genetics and breeding, Jilin Agricultural University, China.

2.2 Explant Preparation and *in Vitro* Culture Condition

The embryo axis was soaked for about 14 h in sterilized double-distilled water. The seeds were sterilized in 10% (w/v) sodium hypochlorite (NaClO) solution for 7 min and 1 min in 70% (w/v) ethanol to reduce microbial contaminants. Then, washed for 6–7 min in sterilized distilled water. Murashige and Skoog (MS) salts with vitamin and sucrose were purchased from Coolaber Science and Technology Co., Ltd., Beijing, China. Both cytokinin and auxin hormones and agar were purchased from Shanghai Aladdin Biochemical Technology Co., Ltd., China. 3% (w/v) sucrose and 0.8% (w/v) agar were used and pH was adjusted 5.7 before autoclave. Both epicotyls and hypocotyls from 3-week-old plantlets were removed and transferred to shoot elongation medium (SEM) for about 21 days. Then elongated shoots were removed and transferred on to root induction medium (RIM) for about one month. The plantlet's growth conditions were 25/25°C day/night, 16 h photoperiod, and 130–150 $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ fluorescent light.

2.3 Optimization of Shoot Induction and Elongation Media

BAP with TDZ combinations was applied in the shoot induction medium (SIM) and shoot elongation medium (SEM). To test effect of BAP with TDZ on shoot induction, we used BAP + TDZ (1 + 1, 2 + 1, 3 + 0.5, 4 + 0.5, 5 + 0.5 mg/L). Shoots grown in a combination of 3 mg/L BAP with 0.5 mg/L TDZ were transferred to SEM with BAP + TDZ (1 + 1, 2 + 1, 3 + 0.5, 4 + 0.5, 5 + 0.5 mg/L). The experimental design was a complete randomized design with three replication. In a glass jar 10 CNs were placed and from these half were used after 30 days to record phenotypic data such as shoot number, shooting rate, shoot length and fresh shoot weight were recorded while the remaining were used for rooting.

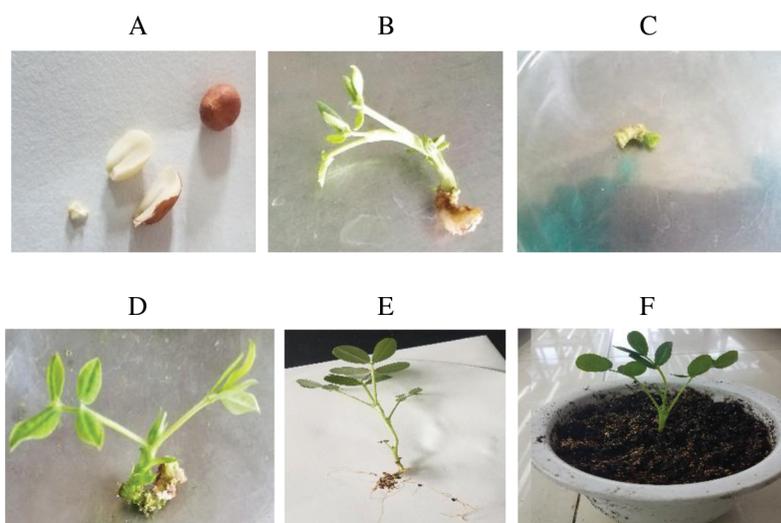


Figure 1: Cotyledonary node regeneration system of peanut variety Yu-hua-14. **A** healthy mature seeds and embryo axes, **B** three-week-old regenerated peanut plantlets from shoot initiation medium, **C** cotyledonary node, **D** one-month-old shoots regeneration from the cotyledonary node, **E** regeneration of roots, **F** regenerated plants transferred to soil

2.4 Optimization of Root Induction Media

Two different auxins with cytokinin combination (2, 4-D with BAP and NAA with BAP) were used distinctly in RIM. Shoots grown in 4 mg/L BAP with 0.5 mg/L TDZ SIM and SEM and shoots grown in 2 mg/L BAP with 1 mg/L TDZ SEM were transferred to 2, 4-D with BAP combination (0.15 + 0.1, 0.2 + 0.15, 0.3 + 0.2, 0.4 + 0.3 mg/L) and NAA with BAP combination (4 + 4, 3 + 2, 3.5 + 2.5, 4 + 1.5 mg/L). After 30 days morphological data such as rooting rate, root number, root fresh weight, and length were recorded and analyzed. The rooted plants were transferred into plastic pots containing soil mixtures such as sandy soil, vermiculite, and manure at the ratio of 1:1:1. The plantlets were covered under transparent plastic bags for retaining humidity and hardened under 25/25°C day/night, 16 h photoperiod, and 130–150 $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ fluorescent light for two weeks. The plastic bags were gradually withdrawn for 2 h for 4 days. The acclimatized plantlets were transferred into pots containing sand and soil and moved to the greenhouse.

2.5 Statistical Analysis

Shoot number, shooting rate, shoot length, fresh shoot weight, rooting rate, root number, root fresh weight, and root length were used for Analysis of Variance (ANOVA). Each experiment had a completely randomized design and was replicated three times. Appropriate standard deviation and means separations

were calculated according to Tukey's Multiple Range Test at a confidence interval of 95%. Minitab 17 software (Minitab Inc., State College, P.A., USA) was used for analysis. Different letters on the graphs showed that the means were statistically different at the $P < 0.05$ level.

3 Results

3.1 Shoot Induction and Elongation Using BAP and TDZ

BAP with TDZ combinations promoted shoot initiation in peanut cultivars. However, the shoot regeneration rate and shoot bud formation varied with the hormone combinations. In this study, BAP with TDZ combination was found to be advantageous in stimulating shoot. A maximum shoot regeneration rate (93%) was achieved on a MS medium containing 4 mg/L BAP with 0.5 mg/L TDZ (Fig. 2B) and an average shooting rate (87%) was obtained in a medium containing a combination of 2 mg/L BAP with 1 mg/L TDZ for N3 cultivar. However, the maximum shooting rate (92%) was achieved for the cultivar Yu-hua-14 in a medium containing 4 mg/L BAP with 0.5 mg/L TDZ (Fig. 2B). The shooting rate increased for both cultivars as the level of BAP concentration increased and TDZ decreased. Moreover, the shooting rate decreased on a medium containing 5 mg/L BAP with 0.5 mg/L TDZ (Fig. 2B). There was no significance difference between cultivars at 4 mg/L BAP with 0.5 mg/L TDZ, 3 mg/L BAP with 0.5 mg/L TDZ and 5 mg/L BAP with 0.5 mg/L TDZ (Fig. 2B). Indicating that combination of BAP with TDZ hormones in shoot induction and shoot elongation medium was found to be worthy in finding better quality shoots in peanut (Figs. 1, 2A).

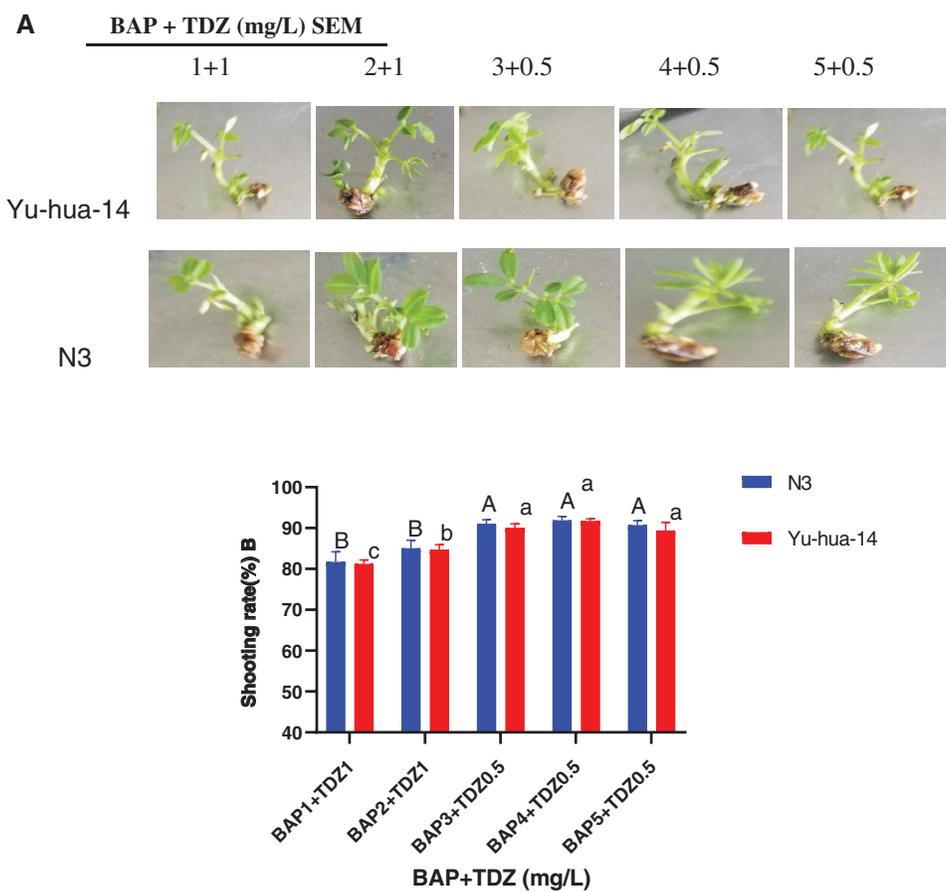


Figure 2: 6-benzylaminopurine and thidiazuron effect on shoot elongation response in peanut cultivars Yu-hua-14 and N3 at different concentrations of BAP with TDZ. **A** three-week-old Yu-hua-14 and N3 peanut cultivars under different concentrations of BAP with TDZ combination, **B** shooting rate

The maximum shoot number (5 ± 0.577) and average shoot number (4 ± 0.577) were obtained in a medium containing 5 mg/L BAP with 0.5 mg/L TDZ and 4 mg/L BAP with 0.5 mg/L TDZ, respectively (Fig. 3A). Shoot number increased when BAP with TDZ concentration increased. There was no significant difference found between cultivars in shoot number containing 3 mg/L BAP with 0.5 mg/L TDZ and 4 mg/L BAP with 0.5 mg/L TDZ (Fig. 3A).

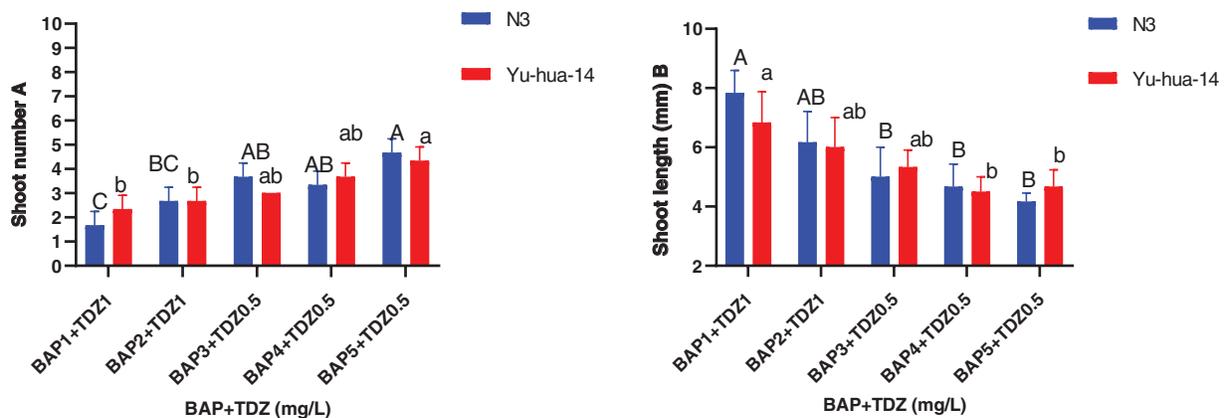


Figure 3: 6-benzylaminopurine and thidiazuron effect on shoot elongation response in peanut cultivars Yu-hua-14 and N3 at different concentrations of BAP with TDZ. **A** shoot number, **B** shoot length

Shoot length ranged between (4 and 8 mm). The maximum shoot length (8 mm) was found on a medium containing 1 mg/L BAP with a 1 mg/L TDZ combination. Shoot length decreased as the concentration of BAP with TDZ increased (Fig. 3B). The average shoot weight (0.48 g) for Yu-hua-14 and (0.55 g) for N3 were obtained on a medium containing 4 mg/L BAP with 1 mg/L TDZ. No significant difference was observed for shoot weight (Fig. 4).

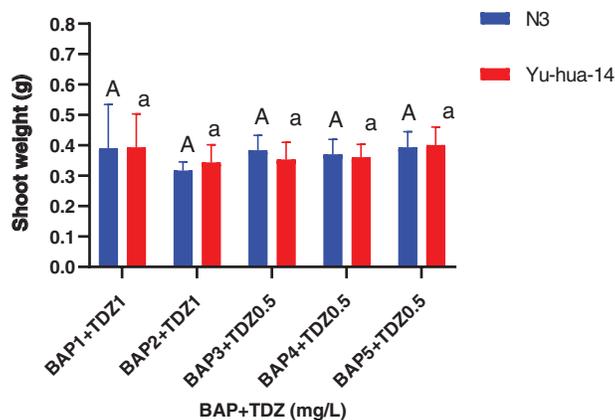


Figure 4: 6-benzylaminopurine and thidiazuron effect on shoot weight in peanut cultivars Yu-hua-14 and N3 at different concentrations of BAP with TDZ on shoot weight

In *in vitro* root culture condition, 21 day-old plantlets were placed on MS medium containing NAA with BAP and 2, 4-D with BAP combinations. The Difference in NAA with BAP and 2, 4-D with BAP medium were tested to check the improvement in peanut cultivars. Healthy and well-developed shoots developed roots initiation within 7 days after placed on the rooting medium (Figs. 5 and 8A).

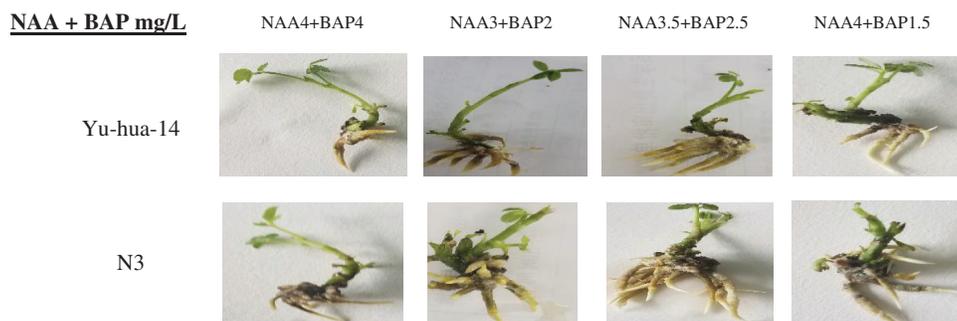


Figure 5: Effect of NAA with BAP combination on the *in vitro* root induction response of peanut cultivars Yu-hua-14 and N3 at different concentrations of auxin/cytokinin ratio treatment initially grown on BAP with TDZ combination medium. One-month-old Yu-hua-14 and N3 peanut cultivars under different concentrations of NAA with BAP

3.2 Optimization of Root Using NAA with BAP

Rooting rates ranged from 50% to 93% and the maximum rooting rate (93%) was obtained on MS medium containing 3 mg/L NAA with 2 mg/L BAP, 3 mg/L NAA with 2.5 mg/L BAP, and 4 mg/L NAA with 1.5 mg/L BAP for N3 cultivar, respectively (Fig. 6A). However, a 93% rooting rate was found on a medium containing 3.5 mg/L NAA with 2.5 mg/L BAP for both cultivars. The rooting rate increased as the concentration of NAA to BAP ratio increased. Nevertheless, at 4 mg/L NAA with 1.5 mg/L BAP rooting rate decreased (Fig. 6A). There was no significant difference found in all combinations except 4 mg/L NAA with 4 mg/L BAP. Morphologically healthy roots developed in all media 3 mg/L NAA with 2 mg/L BAP and 3.5 mg/L NAA with 2.5 mg/L BAP were found better for root initiation.

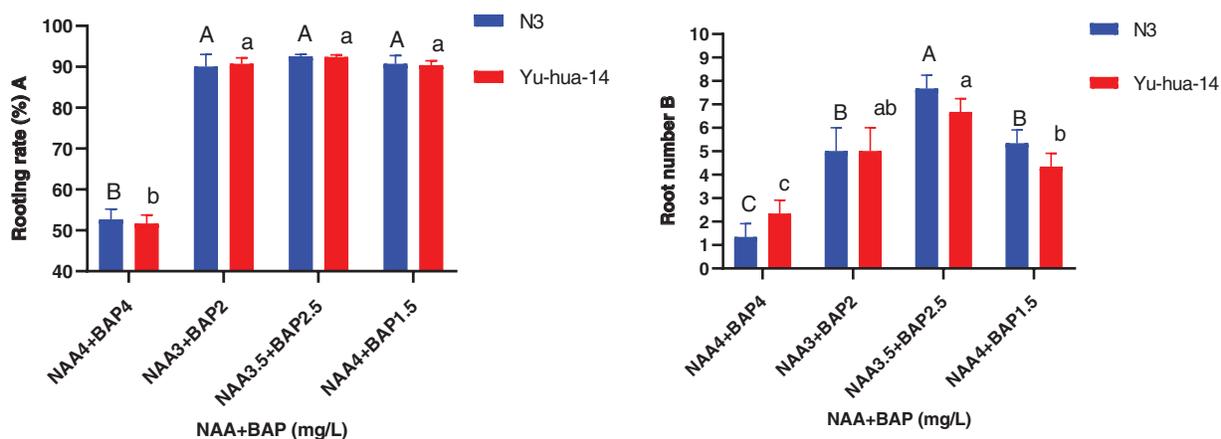


Figure 6: Effect of NAA with BAP combination on the *in vitro* root induction response of peanut cultivars Yu-hua-14 and N3 at different concentrations of auxin treatment initially grown on BAP with TDZ combination medium. **A** rooting rate, **B** root number

The highest root number (8) and the average root number (6) were obtained for the cultivar N3 on a medium containing 3.5 mg/L NAA with 2.5 mg/L BAP and 3 mg/L NAA with 2 mg/L BAP, respectively. Whereas the maximum root number (7) was found for Yu-hua-14 on a medium containing 3.5 mg/L NAA with 2.5 mg/L BAP (Fig. 6B). The highest root length (18 mm) for Yu-hua-14 and (21 mm) for N3 were found on MS medium containing 4 mg/L NAA with 4 mg/L BAP and 3 mg/L NAA with

2 mg/L BAP, respectively (Fig. 7A). Root fresh weight ranged from 0.15 to 0.55 g for N3. The maximum root fresh weight (0.55 g) was obtained on a medium containing 4 mg/L NAA with 4 mg/L BAP for N3. Average root fresh weight (0.45 g) for N3 and 0.42 g for Yu-hua-14 were recorded on hormone combination 3.5 mg/L NAA with 2.5 mg/L BAP (Fig. 7B). There was no significant difference found for root fresh weight at all hormone combinations except 4 mg/L NAA with 4 mg/L BAP.

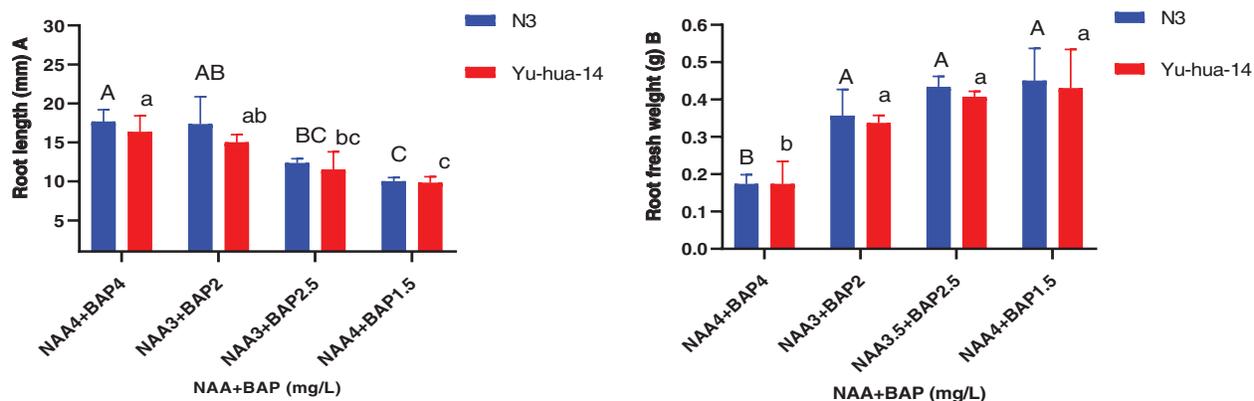


Figure 7: Effect of NAA with BAP combination on the *in vitro* root induction response of peanut cultivars Yu-hua-14 and N3 at different concentrations of auxin/cytokinin ratio treatment initially grown on BAP with TDZ combination medium. **A** root length, **B** root fresh weight

3.3 Optimization of Root Using 2, 4-D with BAP

The effect of 2, 4-D with BAP combination on root development was highly significant ($P < 0.005$). The rooting rate ranged from 51–83% for N3 and 52–83% for Yu-hua-14 (Fig. 8B). The maximum rooting rate (83%) was obtained on MS medium containing 0.3 mg/L 2, 4-D with 0.2 mg/L BAP for the cultivar N3 and 0.4 mg/L 2, 4-D with 0.3 mg/L BAP for Yu-hua-14. Average rooting rate (80%) was obtained on a medium containing 0.3 mg/L 2, 4-D with 0.2 mg/L BAP for Yu-hua-14 (Fig. 8B). The rooting rate decreased as the concentration exceeds 0.3 mg/L 2, 4-D with 0.2 mg/L BAP combination for the peanut cultivar N3.

Root number varied from 1–6 for N3 and 1–7 for Yu-hua-14. The maximum root number 7 ± 2 for Yu-hua-14 and 6 ± 0.577 for N3 were obtained on MS medium containing a combination of 0.4 mg/L 2, 4-D with 0.3 mg/L BAP, and 0.3 mg/L 2, 4-D with 0.2 mg/L BAP, respectively (Fig. 9A). The average root number 4 ± 0.577 , was obtained on a medium containing 0.2 mg/L 2, 4-D with 0.15 mg/L BAP for Yu-hua-14. The average root number 5 ± 1.155 was obtained on a medium containing 0.2 mg/L 2, 4-D with 0.15 mg/L BAP for N3 (Fig. 9A). Root number increased as the concentration of hormone combination increased.

The MS medium containing 0.2 mg/L 2, 4-D with 0.15 mg/L BAP gave highest root length (20 mm) for N3 cultivar while highest root length (17 mm) was obtained for Yu-hua-14 on MS medium containing 0.15 mg/L 2, 4-D with 0.1 mg/L BAP (Fig. 9B). Root fresh weight ranged from 0.1–0.4 g. The maximum root fresh weight was obtained on MS medium containing 0.3 mg/L 2, 4-D with 0.2 mg/L BAP for both peanut cultivars (Fig. 10).

A. 2,4-D with BAP mg/L

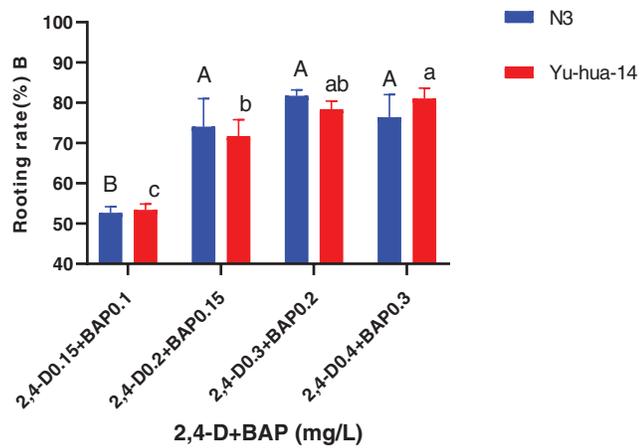


Figure 8: Effect of 2, 4-D and BAP combination on the *in vitro* root induction response of peanut cultivars Yu-hua-14 and N3 at different concentrations of auxin/cytokinin ratio treatment initially grown on BAP and TDZ combination medium. **A** one-month-old Yu-hua-14 and N3 peanut cultivars under different concentration of 2, 4-D and BAP, **B** rooting rate

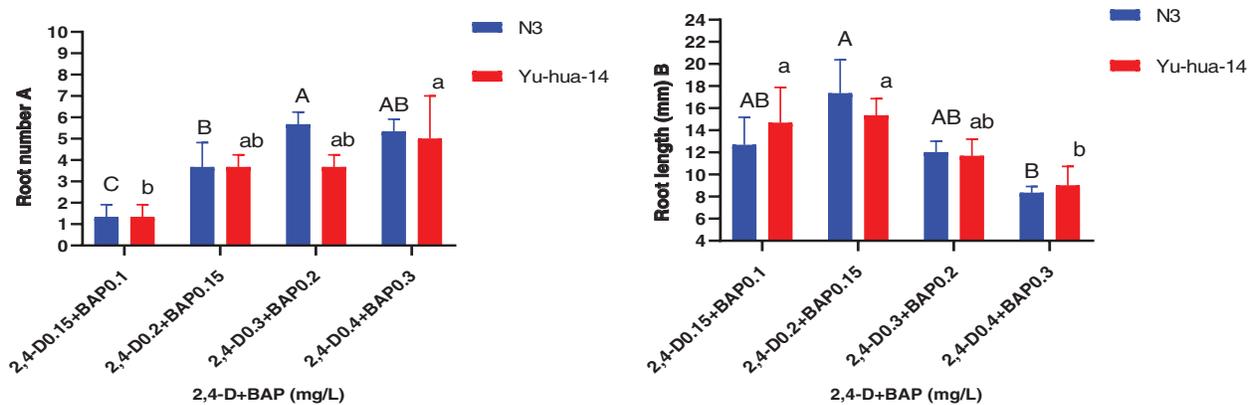


Figure 9: Effect of 2, 4-D and BAP combination on the *in vitro* root induction response of peanut cultivars Yu-hua-14 and N3 at different concentrations of auxin/cytokinin ratio treatment initially grown on BAP and TDZ combination medium. **A** root number, **B** root length

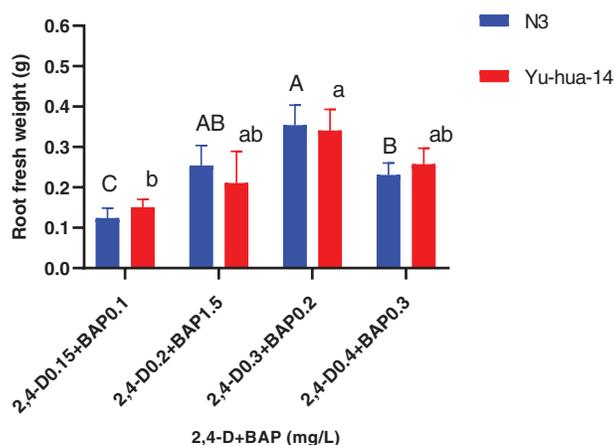


Figure 10: Effect of 2, 4-D and BAP combination on the *in vitro* root induction response of peanut cultivars Yu-hua-14 and N3 initially grown on BAP and TDZ combination medium on root fresh weight

4 Discussion

4.1 Shoot Induction and Elongation

In this study, we optimized *in vitro* plantlet regeneration and protocol development for peanut cultivars. In *in vitro* culture conditions, surface sterilization of the embryo axis is very important and effective to minimize pollutants.

The effect of BAP with TDZ combination was evaluated for shoot initiation and elongation. In the present study, morphologically more healthy peanut plantlets were obtained in a shoot induction medium containing 2 mg/L BAP with 1 mg/L TDZ and 3 mg/L BAP with 0.5 mg/L TDZ (Fig. 2A). Indicating 2 mg/L BAP with 1 mg/L TDZ and 3 mg/L BAP with 0.5 mg/L TDZ combinations were found good for shoot induction. In shoot elongation medium, we used shoots initially grown on MS medium containing 3 mg/L BAP with 0.5 mg/L TDZ. Thus, the medium containing 4 mg/L BAP with 0.5 mg/L TDZ combination resulted maximum regeneration rate (93%) for the cultivar N3 and (92%) for Yu-hua-14 (Fig. 2B). There was no significant difference between cultivars. The rate of shoot regeneration was reduced with an increase in BAP and TDZ concentration (more than 5 mg/L BAP with 0.5 mg/L TDZ) in the culture medium (Fig. 2B). Indicating lower cytokinin combinations are better for shoot regeneration.

The induction of shoot in peanuts has been previously reported using different hormone concentrations. Limbua et al. [6] reported maximum shoot regeneration rate (98%) on medium containing 5 mg/L with 1 mg/L TDZ combination whereas highest 81.5% shoot bud formation were reported by [11,30] on medium containing 3 mg/L BAP with 0.92 mg/L NAA. The maximum shooting rate (68%) was reported [31] on a medium containing 8.88 μ M BAP with 1.15 μ M NAA. In a soybean, using spermidine at 137.69 μ M, the highest shooting rate (96.94%) was reported by [32]. A high shoot regeneration frequency (93.86%) was reported in sunflower [33] on MS medium supplemented with 9.84 μ M 2-isopentenyladenine (2-iP), 2.85 μ M indole-3-acetic acid (IAA) and 0.45 μ M thidiazuron (TDZ) and highest shooting rate (97.7%) was reported in peanut [34] medium containing N6-benzyladenine (BA) with 2, 4-D combinations. The shoot regeneration capacity difference might be because of the variation of the concentrations of hormones and the genotype.

The highest shoot number (5 ± 0.577), maximum shoot length (8 mm) was obtained on a medium containing 5 mg/L BAP with 0.5 mg/L TDZ and 1 mg/L BAP with 1 mg/L TDZ (Figs. 3A and 3B). The medium containing 4 mg/L BAP with 0.5 mg/L TDZ and 4 mg/L BAP with 0.5 mg/L TDZ were found to be preferable hormone combination in terms of good morphology of the peanut cultivars (Fig. 2A).

Cytokinins plant growth regulators are a very important factor in the induction of shoots from cultured tissues. In this study, BAP at higher concentrations and TDZ at lower concentrations resulted in the production of multiple shoots. We obtained 0.48 g shoot weight for Yu-hua-14 and 0.55 g for N3 (Fig. 4). And no significant difference was observed between the cultivars. Indicating, the protocol developed in the present study was genotype independent. Plantlets regenerated from cotyledonary node culture were smaller in size than normal seedlings and this might be because of the nutrients supplied via the culture medium may not be the same as the nutrient present in the seed.

4.2 Rooting: NAA with BAP

The effect of NAA with BAP was observed for root induction in peanut. Different concentrations of NAA with BAP were tested (Figs. 5, 6A, 6B, 7A and 7B). A mixture of NAA with BAP increased the regeneration rate and the number of roots for both peanut cultivars. Between NAA and BAP combination tested, the maximum rooting rate (93%) was found for the N3 cultivar. A maximum root number (8) was achieved on a medium containing 3.5 mg/L NAA with 2.5 mg/L BAP (Figs. 6A, 6B). But highest root length (21 mm) was achieved on the medium containing 3 mg/L NAA with 2 mg/L BAP (Fig. 7A). The maximum root fresh weight (0.55 g) was achieved on a medium containing 4 mg/L NAA with 1.5 mg/L BAP for N3 (Fig. 7B).

The maximum root regeneration rate (93%) and root number (7) were obtained for the cultivar Yu-hua-14 on a medium containing 3.5 mg/L NAA with 2.5 mg/L BAP. In this study highest root regeneration rate and maximum root number were obtained on a medium containing 3.5 mg/L NAA with 2.5 mg/L BAP for both cultivars (Figs. 6A, 6B). Indicating 3.5 mg/L NAA with 2.5 mg/L BAP combination was a better hormone combination to generate maximum rooting rate and root number. The highest root length (18 mm) was obtained in the combination of 4 mg/L NAA with 4 mg/L BAP while maximum root fresh weight (0.55 g) was found on a medium containing 4 mg/L NAA with 1.5 mg/L BAP (Figs. 7A, 7B).

Varied root regeneration percent had been previously reported on different hormone combinations [6]. High regeneration frequency (70%) was reported by [6]. Whereas (68.3%) root regeneration reported [9] on MS medium containing 2 mg/L BAP with 1.5 mg/L NAA in black gram. In peanut [27] reported 96.33% regeneration rate on medium containing 1 mg/L NAA. However, Limbua et al. [6] reported 100% rooting rate on a medium containing 5.7 μ M NAA. Comparatively a high ratio of cytokinin to auxin stimulates shoot formation while increased auxin to cytokinin ratio stimulates root formation [35].

4.3 Rooting: 2, 4-D with BAP

In this study, 2, 4-D with BAP induced root regeneration of peanut cultivars (Figs. 8A, 8B). We evaluated the effectiveness of the combination of the two hormones for the root formation. Medium containing 0.3 mg/L 2, 4-D with 0.2 mg/L BAP was found relatively more suitable for rooting than other concentration combinations. Maximum rooting rate (83%), root number (6 ± 0.577), root length (20 mm), and root fresh weight (0.4 g) were observed in the N3 peanut cultivar (Figs. 8B, 9A, 9B and 10). In Yu-hua-14, the highest rooting rate was (83%) observed on a medium containing 0.4 mg/L 2, 4-D with 0.3 mg/L BAP combinations (Fig. 8B). Medium containing 0.3 mg/L 2, 4-D with 0.2 mg/L BAP and 0.4 mg/L 2, 4-D with 0.3 mg/L BAP gave better regeneration rate for both cultivars as compared to other hormone combinations. Similar to our result, Limbua et al. [6] reported that the rooting rate was 83%. The highest root number, root length, and root fresh weight were 7 ± 2 , 17 mm, and 0.4 g, respectively (Figs. 9A, 9B and 10).

In general, a maximum rooting rate (93%) was achieved on a medium containing 3.5 mg/L NAA with 2.5 mg/L BAP for both cultivars. The rooting rate increased as the concentration of auxin to cytokinin ratio increased. The maximum rooting rate (83%) was achieved on MS medium supplemented with 0.3 mg/L 2, 4-D with 0.2 mg/L BAP for the cultivar N3. The result showed that BAP with NAA was much better than BAP with 2, 4-D in rooting rate. The plants with a more number of roots at the

time of transfer to the pots become well established. The combination of NAA with BAP and 2, 4-D with BAP helped in the development of roots, but a reduced rate of root forming as compared to cytokinins alone.

5 Conclusion

A combination of 2 mg/L BAP with 1 mg/L TDZ and 3 mg/L BAP with 0.5 mg/L TDZ were found to be favorable for shoot initiation. Using BAP with TDZ combination was effective for shoot initiation and elongation media. The application of 4 mg/L BAP with 0.5 mg/L TDZ was more effective for shoot elongation. BAP in combination with NAA was found to be effective and much better than BAP with 2, 4-D in rooting rate, root number, and root length. Plantlets regenerated from cotyledonary node culture were smaller in size than normal seedlings and this might be because of the nutrients supplied via the culture medium may not be the same as the nutrient present in the seed.

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Authorship: AL, conducted the experiment, wrote and revised the manuscript. JZ, XH, and SY supervised the whole process and revised and edited the manuscript. AL, BS, DY, XL analyzed data. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare there is no conflict of interest

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