

## **Enhancement of antioxidant compound in *Tylophora indica* (Asclepadaceae) callus**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*The accumulation of kaempferol was evaluated in undifferentiated callus of Tylophora indica through TLC, HPTLC analysis with standard reference compound. Kaempferol is a strong antioxidant and help to prevent oxidative damage to our cells, lipids and DNA. In the present investigation, we have enhanced the kaempferol content in Tylophora indica tissue culture by using precursors like salicylic acid, ornithine, cinnamic acid, tyrosin and phenylalanine in different concentration (10 and 20 mg/100 ml). Here we have used static as well as suspension culture to enhanced the kaempferol concentration. The callus of Tylophora indica was initiated and maintained on MS (Murashige and Skoog's) medium supplemented with 3% of sucrose, while Zenk production media was used as production media. A remarkable enhancement in kaempferol content was obtained by using 20 mg/100 ml of tyrosin (1.49% dw; control -0.096% dw) in suspension culture, which is more than tenfold increase. The enhancement of kaempferol in callus of Tylophora indica by using these amino acids was reported for the first time.*

**Keywords:** Callus; NAA; BAP; Phenylalanine; Ornithine; Tyrosin; Cinnamic acid; Zenk media

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Medicinal plant is defined as a plant which has been proven or thought to have medicinal remedies [1]. Plant tissue cultures have now emerged as an alternative to plants which have acquired world-wide dimensions in improving genetic potential of plants and their preparative use in methodologies. Cultures have been proved to retain biosynthetic capacities, as various compounds and enzyme systems of plants are found to be present in cultures too. Review of literature reveals that lot of work has been done in the field of flavonoids tissue culture [2,3,4,5]. Flavonoids are metabolites produced as part of plant defense, especially against the effects of ultraviolet radiation. Flavonoids, one of secondary metabolite are potent antioxidants, free radical scavengers, and metal chelators and lipid peroxidation inhibitor. They have been reported to exhibit a wide range of biological effects, including antibacterial, antiviral, vasodilatory actions [6]. Kaempferol seems to prevent arteriosclerosis by inhibiting the oxidation of low density lipoprotein and the formation of platelets in the blood. Studies have also confirmed that kaempferol acts as a chemopreventive agent, which means that it inhibits the formation of cancer cells. It is a flavonoid classified as flavonol that widely distributed group of polyphenolic compounds, characterized by a common benzo-pyrone structure. Biotransformation is a process through which functional groups of organic compounds are modified by living cells. Biotransformation done by plant cell culture system can be desirable when a given reaction is unique to a plant cell and the product of reaction has a high market value. The useful natural products are synthesized through secondary metabolism. Growth inhibition is often associated with cytodifferentiation and the induction of enzymes for secondary metabolism, so dual culture system is preferred. Dual culture system involves biomass production in a medium optimum for cell proliferation followed by transfer

of healthy cells to a different medium which is favorable for product yield. This strategy was used by Zenk *et al.*, 1975[7] for the production of indole alkaloids by *Catharanthus roseus* cells. In the present study, this strategy was used to enhance the production of kaempferol in *Tylophora indicacallus*. Cytokinin concentration in the media also supports to enhance the secondary metabolite. Khanna *et al.*, 1988 [4] have reported the enhancement of secondary metabolite by feeding the callus with precursor in the tissue culture of various medicinal plant sps. So, keeping all this background we have selected salicylic acid, cinnamic acid, ornithine, tyrosin and, phenylalanine as precursor for enhancement of kaempferol in callus of *Tylophora indica*. Zenk media was used as production media.

*Tylophora indica* (Burm. f.) Merrill. (Family: Asclepidaceae) commonly known as Antmul is a twining perennial plant distributed throughout southern and eastern part of India in plains, forests, and hilly places. The use of leaves for tea and pharmaceutical preparations is very common and agreement with the high levels of secondary metabolites in this organ *Tylophora indica* (Burm. f.) Merrill. (Family: Asclepidaceae) commonly known as Antmul is a twining perennial plant distributed throughout southern and eastern part of India in plains, forests, and hilly places. The plant is found growing normally in Uttar Pradesh, Bengal, Assam, Orissa, Himalayas and sub Himalayas in India. It is a branching climber or shrub that grows up to 1.5 meters, leaves are ovate-oblong to elliptic-oblong, 10-15 cm long and 1.5-7 cm wide. The plant has been reported to contain 0.2-0.46% alkaloids. It contains tylophorine, kaempferol, wax, resins, and tannins. *Tylophora indica* has been exploited by phytochemically as well as biotechnologically [8-15]. Many scientists have documented the medicinal values and tissue culture studies on *T. indica* [16-19].

The biosynthesis of kaempferol in callus of *Tylophora indica* is not reported so far. In the present investigation *Tylophora indica* callus was initiated, maintained and used to examine the kaempferol content as experimental material. A novel method is described where we have enhanced the kaempferol content in *Tylophora indica* tissue culture by using elicitor like salicylic acid and various amino acids like ornithine, cinnamic acid, tyrosin, phenylalanine in different concentrations. The enhancement of kaempferol in callus of *Tylophora indica* by using these precursor was reported for the first time.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

The plant material collected from the Kelkar farmhouse, Mulund, was used for the initiation of callus. The young leaves of the plant were surface sterilized with 0.1% of mercuric chloride and washed with sterile double distilled water. The surface sterilized leaves were cut into pieces (1 cm) and aseptically inoculated into the sterilized MS (Murashige and Skoog's) basal media supplemented with 3% of sucrose, and various growth hormones in different combinations separately. The media was solidified with 0.7% of agar. It was adjusted to 5.8 pH before autoclaving (121°C for 15 min.). Various hormones like 2,4-D, Kinetin, IAA, IBA in different combinations were used but 2 ppm of NAA and 0.2 ppm of BAP gave the best results. The cultures were incubated at 25°C at 8 hours of dark and 16 hours of photo period (1000 Lux). The growth index in all the samples was calculated (Tab.1). After twenty days of incubation proliferation of leaves skin can be marked and finally bursting of the epidermis can be seen. The callus initiation started from midrib portion of the leaves. Sub culturing into fresh media was carried out at the time interval of 4 weeks. The developed callus was then transferred to media i.e. Zenk media supplemented with precursor like salicylic acid, ornithine, cinnamic acid, tyrosin and phenylalanine in different concentrations (10 and 20 mg/100 ml). All the samples were harvested at the age of six weeks, dried and subjected for methanolic cold extraction. These cold extracts were dried in vacuo and subjected for qualitative as well as quantitative analysis of kaempferol with that of the standard compound. The qualitative analysis was carried out by Thin Layer Chromatography (TLC), while quantitative estimation was carried out by HPTLC.

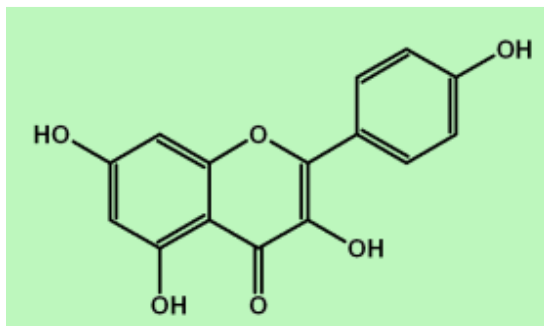
### HPTLC (High Performance Liquid Chromatography) analysis

HPTLC analysis was carried out in Anchrom Test Lab Pvt. Ltd using silica gel plates (60F254 Manufacturer E. MERCK KGaA), sample application was carried out on CAMAG Linomat 5 Instrument (CAMAG Linomat 5 "Linomat5\_080222" S/N 080222). Inert gas was used as spray gas. Sample solvent type was methanol. Dosage speed was 150 nl/s and syringe size was 100 µl and the analysis wave length was 430 nm. Toluene: Ethyl acetate (14:2) was used as mobile phase.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The callus of *Tylophora indica* was successfully initiated and established in the laboratory by using 0.2 ppm of BAP and 2 ppm of NAA in the MS medium supplemented with 3% of sucrose and 0.8% of agar. The callus then transferred

to the Zenk production media to enhance the content of kaempferol. Zenk media is helps to produce the secondary metabolite in tissue culture.



Kaempferol (Rf 0.56; Uv fluorescent - bright yellowish blue, ammonia - deep yellow, FeCl<sub>3</sub>-brown; m.p. 270-273<sup>o</sup>C

Figure1.: Showing the chemical structure of kaempfero

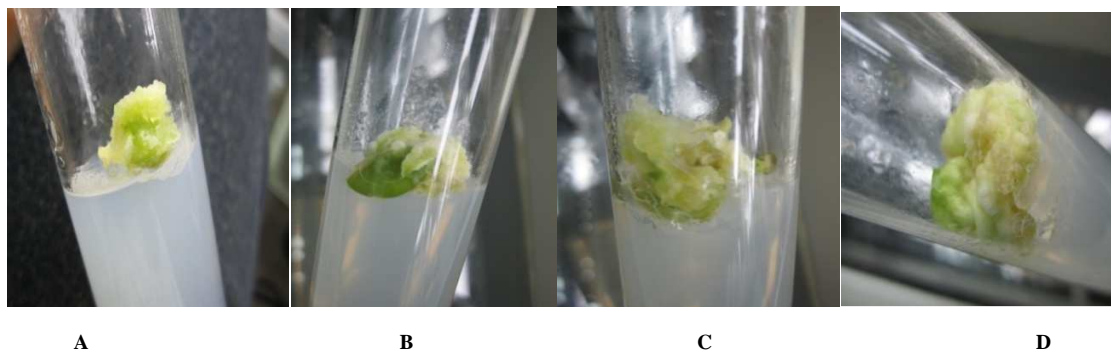


Figure 2.: The Developmental stages of Callus (A-D) initiated from leaf explants in *Tylophora indica*

Table 1: Effect of different growth hormones on growth of callus (6 weeks old) initiated from the leaf explant. ± represent the mean value s.e. of three replicates

GI=Final weight-initial weight/initial weight

Sr. No	IBA (ppm)	NAA (ppm)	BAP (ppm)	Kinetin (ppm)	Growth Index (GI)
A	-	2	0.2	-	5.69±0.011
B	-	1	0.1	0.1	3.11±0.052
C	-	1	0.1	0.2	3.98±0.041
D	-	2	-	0.1	5.12±0.032
E	0.5	-	0.2	-	2.11± 0.011
F	1.0	-	0.1	-	2.18 ±0.019

Table 2.: The enhancement of kaempferol in callus of *Tylophora indica* ± represent the mean value s.e. of three replicate

s. no	compound	Kaempferol content in Static culture(%)		Kaempferol content in Suspension(%)	
		10 mg/100ml	20 mg/100ml	10mg/100ml	20 mg/100 ml
1.	Salicylic acid	0.21±0.076	0.18±0.096	-	-
2.	Cinnamic acid	0.47 ±0.056	0.12±0.054	-	-
3.	Ornithine	0.15±0.064	0.93±0.058	-	-
4.	Tyrosin	-	-	0.54±0.047	1.49±0.048
5.	Phenylalanine	-	-	0.153±0.078	0.239±0.038
6.	Callus	0.096±0.076	-	-	-
7.	Leaves	0.1609±0.054	-	-	-

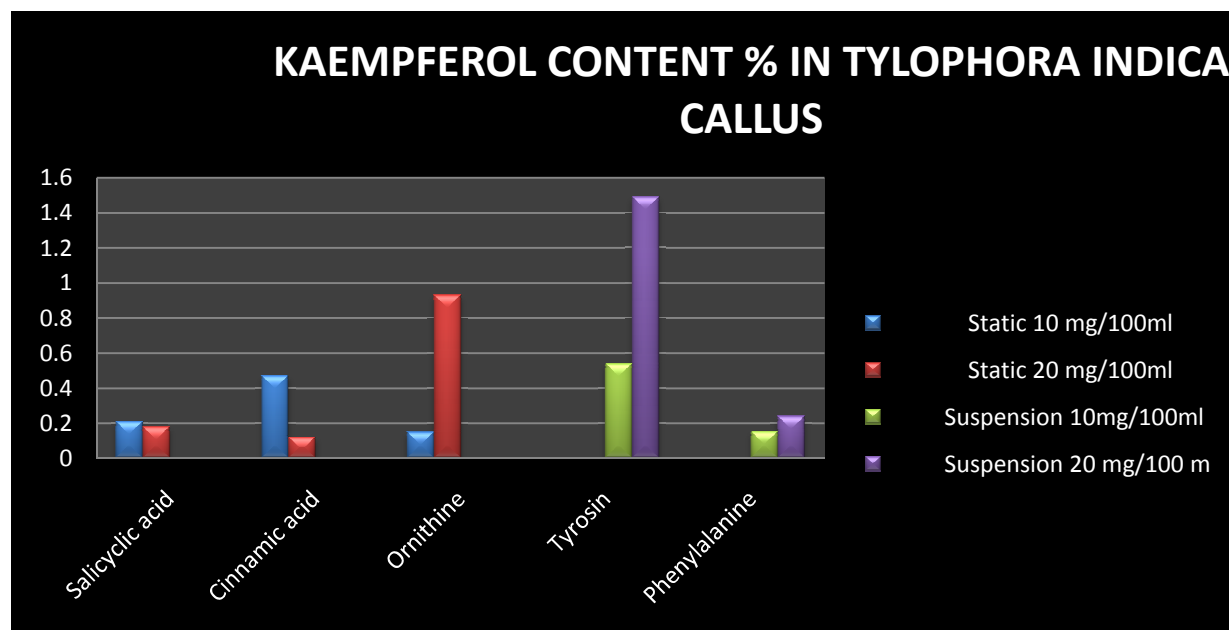


Figure 3 : The enhancement of kaempferol in callus of *Tylophora indica*

The present study describes the enhancement of kaempferol content in callus. The different precursor like cinnamic acid, ornithine, tyrosin, phenylalanine, and salicylic acid were used in 10 and 20 mg/100ml each separately. Salicylic acid and cinnamic acid and ornithine were used in static culture where as tyrosin and phenylalanine were used in suspension culture. Zenk media was used as a basal media in all the instances. The production of kaempferol in callus of *Tylophora indica* was increased considerably. The results showed that the tyrosin proved as a best precursor of kaempferol as discussed in literature. Maximum enhancement in kaempferol was found in the tyrosin treated callus which is around 10 fold increase than control.

In addition to many essential nutritional components, plants contain phenolic substances, a large and heterogeneous group of biologically active non-nutrients. Flavonoids are divided into many categories, including flavonols, flavones, catechins, proanthocyanidins, anthocyanidins and isoflavonoids [6]. Phenolic acids present in plants are hydroxylated derivatives of benzoic and cinnamic acid. Phenylalanine, produced in plants via the shikimate pathway, is a common precursor for most phenolic compounds in higher plants [20,21]. Similarly, hydroxyl cinnamic acids, and particularly their coenzyme A esters, are common structural elements of phenolic compounds. The enzymes catalyzing the individual steps in general phenylpropanoid metabolism are phenylalanine ammonia-lyase (PAL), cinnamic acid 4-hydroxylase (CA4H), and hydroxycinnamate: coenzyme A ligase (C4L). These three steps are necessary for the biosynthesis of phenolic compounds [20-21]. Tyrosine is really an essential amino acid, as it is synthesized by the hydroxylation of phenylalanine, an essential amino acid. In the present study, tyrosin in suspension culture gave the best results than others because suspension culture enhanced the production of secondary metabolite *in vitro* due to the reasons that it gives the better aeration in agitation, more contact of cells to nutrients and also more tyrosine decarboxylase activity which leads to maximize the kaempferol production. Further experiments related to the feeding of the other precursor in suspension will be carried out in future. The present study will also be helpful in industries to commercial production of kaempferol, a valuable compound. It has been described that cinnamic acid is the better precursor of flavonoid than phenylalanine [22], our results also support these findings. This type of study was carried out for the first time in *Tylophora indica* callus *in vitro*.

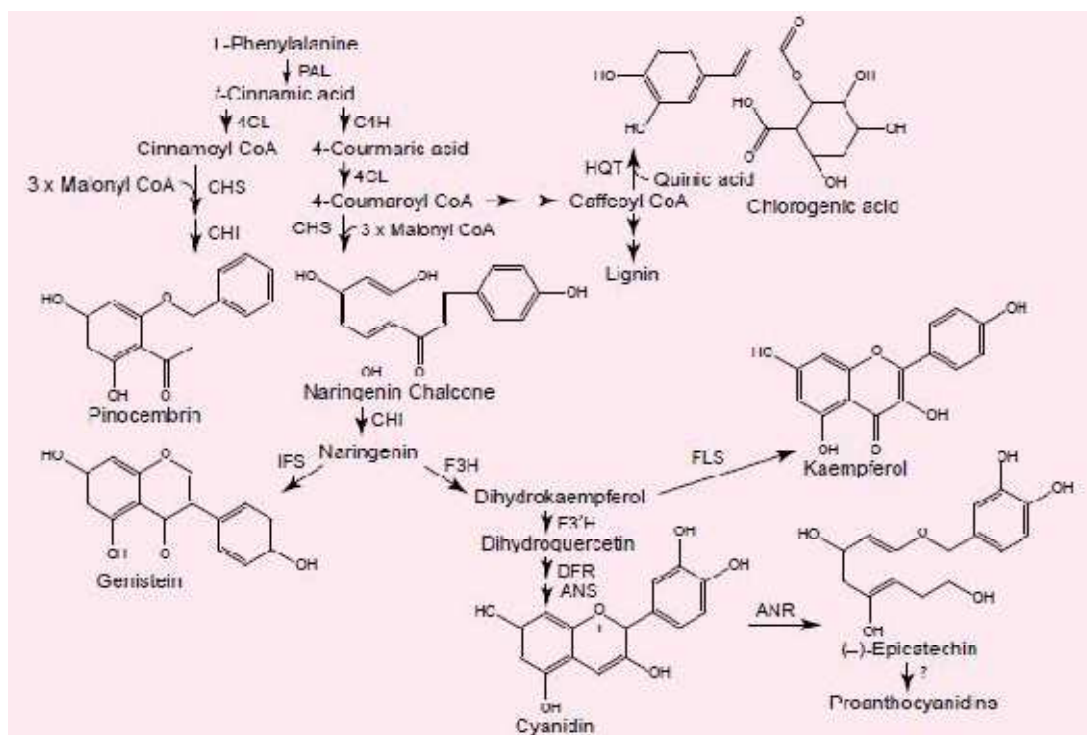


Figure 4. The biosynthetic pathway of kaempferol

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