EX SITU CONSERVATION OF TWO ORCHID SPECIES VIZ. CYMBIDIUM ELEGANS LINDLEY. AND DENDROBIUM DENSIFLORUM LINDL. BY TISSUE CULTURE TECHNIQUE

A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY, KATHMANDU, NEPAL IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BOTANY

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the dissertation work entitled "Ex situ conservation of two orchid species viz. Cymbidium elegans Lindley. and Dendrobium densiflorum Lindl. by tissue culture technique" submitted by Shreeti Pradhan for the partial fulfillment of M. Sc. in Botany, has been carried out under my supervision. The entire work is based on the results of her own work and has not been submitted for any other degree to the best of my knowledge. I recommend this dissertation work to be accepted as a requirement for the partial fulfillment of M. Sc. in Botany, Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur, Nepal.

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APPROVAL LETTER

The dissertation work submitted by Miss Shreeti Pradhan entitled "Ex Situ Conservation of two Orchid Species Viz. Cymbidium elegans Lindley. and Dendrobium densiflorum Lindl. by Tissue Culture Technique" has been accepted as a partial fulfillment of M.Sc. in Botany.

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ABSTRACT

Cymbidium elegans Lindley. and Dendrobium densiflorum Lindl. are two important orchids especially used for horticultural purposes. Both of these species are listed as rare and critically endangered (CITES, Appendix II) For the conservation and propagation of these species, the present study was conducted to determine the germination of both the species and in vitro mass propagation of D. densiflorum Lindl. by using MS medium (Murashige and Skoog medium, 1962) and MS medium supplemented with different growth regulators. MS medium supplemented with BAP 1 mg/l was the most effective for *in vitro* seed germination of *C. elegans* Lindley. in which germination started after 9 weeks of inoculation whereas the MS basal medium was most effective for in vitro seed germination of D. densiflorum Lindl. in which germination was started after 5 weeks of inoculation. Shoot tip and root tip explants obtained from in vitro grown seedling of D. densiflorum Lindl. was cultured in MS basal medium and MS supplemented with various combinations of BAP and NAA. The maximum number of healthy shoots was observed in MS + BAP 2 mg/l + NAA 0.5 mg/l medium (4.0 shoots/culture). The appropriate medium for root tip development was found to be MS + BAP 1.5 mg/l (7.25 shoots/culture). For rooting, shoot tip explants from in vitro multiplied shoots of D. densiflorum Lindl. were rooted by using different concentrations of IAA, IBA and NAA. The rooting was observed after 10 weeks of culture of shoot tips. MS + IBA 1.5 mg/l (4.5 roots/culture) was found to be more effective for maximum number and enlargement of roots. The *in vitro* propagated plantlets were subjected for acclimatization.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ANOVA - Analysis of Variance

B₅ - Gamborg's Medium

BA - Benzyl Adenine

BAP - 6-Benzyl Amino Purine

BM - Basal Medium

CDB - Central Department of Botany

CITES - Convention on International Trade In

Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

EDTA - Ethylene Diamino Tetra Acetate

IAA - Indole -3-Acetic Acid

IBA - Indole -3-Butyric Acid

ICIMOD - International Center for Integrated Mountain

Development

Kn C - Knudson Medium

KN - Kinetin

MS - Murashige and Skoog (1962)

NAA - α-Napthalene Acetic Acid

PLBs - Protocorm like bodies

S.D. - Standard Deviation