



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

**EFFECTS OF GAMMA IRRADIATION ON
IN VITRO CULTURES OF SELECTED ORCHID HYBRIDS**

ADRIN LING CHIENG KUANG

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**MASTER OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE
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SELECTED ORCHID HYBRIDS**

By

ADRIN LING CHIENG KUANG

**Thesis Submitted in Fulfilment of the Requirements for
the Degree of Master of Agricultural Science in
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To Almighty God for His blessings.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Page
	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iii
	LIST OF TABLES	viii
	LIST OF FIGURES	xi
	LIST OF PLATES	xii
	LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xiv
	ABSTRACT	xvii
	ABSTRAK	xx
CHAPTER		
I	INTRODUCTION	1
II	LITERATURE REVIEW	4
	Mutation Induction	5
	Types of Mutations	6
	Types of Mutagens	9
	Effects of Ionising Radiation	14
	Photons Absorption	14
	Chemical Changes	15
	Damage to DNA	15
	Killing Effect	16
	Repair of DNA	16
	Irradiation Dose	17
	Measurement of Irradiation Dose	19
	Mutation Induction on <i>In Vitro</i> Cultures	20
	Measure of Effects of Irradiation	23
	Random Amplified Polymorphic DNA (RAPD)	24
	Influence of Different Parameters on the RAPD	26
	DNA Concentration	26
	Mg ²⁺ Concentration	27
	Taq DNA Polymerase Concentration	27
	Annealing and Denaturing Temperature	28
III	MATERIALS AND METHOD	29
	Location	29
	Plant Materials	29



	Irradiation	31
	Post-irradiation Treatment	32
	Parameters	33
	Survival	33
	Plantlet Regeneration	34
	Fresh Weight	34
	Dry Weight	34
	DNA Analysis	35
	Subculturing	35
	Planting and Maintenance of Plantlet	35
	Genomic DNA Isolation	36
	Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)	37
	Recovery of DNA from Agarose Gel	38
	Southern Analysis	39
	Southern Blotting	39
	Southern Hybridisation	39
	Preparation of Labelled Probe	40
	Blocking, Antibody Incubation and Washes	40
	Signal Generation and Detection	41
	Reprobing Blot	41
	Transformation	41
	Plasmid Miniprep	42
	Plasmid DNA Purification	43
	Sequencing and Computer Analysis	44
	Southern Blot Analysis of Genomic DNA	44
	Experimental Design and Statistical Analysis	45
IV	RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	46
	Effect of γ -Irradiation on the Survival of <i>In Vitro</i> Cultures of <i>Mokara</i> Chark Kuan	46
	Effect of γ -Irradiation on the Survival of <i>In Vitro</i> Cultures of <i>Dendrobium</i> Jacky	49
	Effect of γ -Irradiation on Plantlet Regeneration of <i>In Vitro</i> Cultures of <i>Mokara</i> Chark Kuan	51
	Effect of γ -Irradiation on Plantlet Regeneration of <i>In Vitro</i> Cultures of <i>Dendrobium</i> Jacky	52
	Effect of γ -Irradiation on the Fresh Weight, Dry Weight and Dry Weight Gain of <i>In Vitro</i> Cultures of <i>Mokara</i> Chark Kuan	54

Effect of γ -Irradiation on the Fresh Weight, Dry Weight and Dry Weight Gain of <i>In Vitro</i> Cultures of <i>Dendrobium</i> Jacky	58
Effect of γ -Irradiation on the Genomic DNA of <i>Mokara</i> Chark Kuan	60
Effect of γ -Irradiation on the Genomic DNA of <i>Dendrobium</i> Jacky	76
V CONCLUSION	77
BIBLIOGRAPHY	82
APPENDICES	92
Appendix A Additional Tables	93
Appendix B Figures	95
Appendix C ANOVA Tables	97
Appendix D Sequences	96
Appendix E Alignments	109
Appendix F Possible binding sites of pAL202 over pAL108 by forming secondary structure (loop)	113
VITA	114



LIST OF TABLES

Table		Page
1	The Absorbed Doses as Measured by the Fricke Dosimeter in Set I	32
2	The Absorbed Doses as Measured by the Fricke Dosimeter in Set II	32
3	Mean Percentage in Survival of <i>In Vitro</i> Cultures of <i>Mokara</i> Chark Kuan Adjusted to the Control (Non-irradiated) under Different Doses of γ -Irradiation (Set I)	47
4	Mean Percentage in Survival of <i>In Vitro</i> Cultures of <i>Mokara</i> Chark Kuan Adjusted to the Control (Non-irradiated) under Different Doses of γ -Irradiation (Set II)	47
5	Mean Percentage in Survival of <i>In Vitro</i> Cultures of <i>Dendrobium</i> Jacky Adjusted to the Control (Non-irradiated) under Different Doses of γ -Irradiation (Set I)	49
6	Mean Percentage in Survival of <i>In Vitro</i> Cultures of <i>Dendrobium</i> Jacky Adjusted to the Control (Non-irradiated) under Different Doses of γ -Irradiation (Set II)	50
7	Mean Number of <i>Mokara</i> Chark Kuan Plantlets Regenerated 15 Weeks after Various Doses of γ -Irradiation (Set I)	51
8	Mean Number of <i>Mokara</i> Chark Kuan Plantlets Regenerated 15 Weeks after Various Doses of γ -Irradiation (Set II)	52
9	Mean Number of <i>Dendrobium</i> Jacky Plantlets Regenerated 15 Weeks after Various Doses of γ -Irradiation (Set I)	53
10	Mean Number of <i>Dendrobium</i> Jacky Plantlets Regenerated 15 Weeks after Various Doses of γ -Irradiation (Set II)	53



11	Mean Fresh Weight, Dry Weight and Dry Weight Gain (g/sample) of <i>In Vitro</i> Cultures of <i>Mokara</i> Chark Kuan 15 Weeks after Various Doses of γ -Irradiation (Set I)	55
12	Mean Fresh Weight, Dry Weight and Dry Weight Gain (g/sample) of <i>In Vitro</i> Cultures of <i>Mokara</i> Chark Kuan 15 Weeks after Various Doses of γ -Irradiation (Set II)	56
13	Mean Fresh Weight, Dry Weight and Dry Weight Gain (g/sample) of <i>In Vitro</i> Cultures of <i>Dendrobium</i> Jacky 15 Weeks after Various Doses of γ -Irradiation (Set I)	58
14	Mean Fresh Weight, Dry Weight and Dry Weight Gain (g/sample) of <i>In Vitro</i> Cultures of <i>Dendrobium</i> Jacky 15 Weeks after Various Doses of γ -Irradiation (Set II)	59
15	Modified Vacin and Went's Formulation as Used in Media Preparation	93
16	Primers from Operon Kit AE	94
17	ANOVA for Survival Set I (<i>Mokara</i> Chark Kuan)	97
18	ANOVA for Survival Set II (<i>Mokara</i> Chark Kuan)	97
19	ANOVA for Survival Set I (<i>Dendrobium</i> Jacky)	98
20	ANOVA for Survival Set II (<i>Dendrobium</i> Jacky)	98
21	ANOVA for Plantlet Regeneration Set I (<i>Mokara</i> Chark Kuan)	99
22	ANOVA for Plantlet Regeneration Set II (<i>Mokara</i> Chark Kuan)	99
23	ANOVA for Plantlet Regeneration Set I (<i>Dendrobium</i> Jacky)	100
24	ANOVA for Plantlet Regeneration Set II (<i>Dendrobium</i> Jacky)	100
25	ANOVA for Fresh Weight Set I (<i>Mokara</i> Chark Kuan)	101



26	ANOVA for Dry Weight Set I (<i>Mokara</i> Chark Kuan)	101
27	ANOVA for Dry Weight Gain Set I (<i>Mokara</i> Chark Kuan)	102
28	ANOVA for Fresh Weight Set II (<i>Mokara</i> Chark Kuan)	102
29	ANOVA for Dry Weight Set II (<i>Mokara</i> Chark Kuan)	103
30	ANOVA for Dry Weight Gain Set II (<i>Mokara</i> Chark Kuan)	103
31	ANOVA for Fresh Weight Set I (<i>Dendrobium</i> Jacky)	104
32	ANOVA for Dry Weight Set I (<i>Dendrobium</i> Jacky)	104
33	ANOVA for Dry Weight Gain Set I (<i>Dendrobium</i> Jacky)	105
34	ANOVA for Fresh Weight Set II (<i>Dendrobium</i> Jacky)	105
35	ANOVA for Dry Weight Set II (<i>Dendrobium</i> Jacky)	106
36	ANOVA for Dry Weight Gained Set II (<i>Dendrobium</i> Jacky)	106



LIST OF FIGURES

Figure		Page
1	Graph mean of survival of PLBs (<i>Mokara</i> Chark Kuan) vs. γ -irradiation doses	95
2	Graph mean of survival of PLBs (<i>Dendrobium</i> Jacky) vs. γ -irradiation doses	96



LIST OF PLATES

Plate		Page
1	<i>Mokara</i> Chark Kuan ‘Pink’ (<i>Aranda</i> Christine x <i>Ascosenda</i> Cholburi)	30
2	<i>Dendrobium</i> Jacky (<i>Dendrobium</i> Madam Vipa x <i>Dendrobium</i> Candy Stripe)	31
3	Agarose gel electrophoresis of amplified sequences from a RAPD reaction directed by primer OPAE-08 using DNA extracted from 7 <i>Mokara</i> Chark Kuan regenerants treated with different doses of γ -irradiation. Two novel bands of approximately 2.5 and 1.1 kb are indicated	61
4	Southern analysis using the band of approximately 2.5 kb (Plate 3) to probe a Southern blot of the same amplification product, a RAPD reaction directed by primer OPAE-08	62
5	Southern analysis using the band of approximately 1.1 kb (Plate 3) to probe a Southern blot of the same amplification product, a RAPD reaction directed by primer OPAE-08	62
6	Agarose gel electrophoresis of amplified sequences from a RAPD reaction directed by primer OPAE-11 using DNA extracted from 7 <i>Mokara</i> Chark Kuan regenerants treated with different doses of γ -irradiation. Two novel bands of approximately 1.2 and 0.9 kb are indicated	64
7	Southern analysis using the band of approximately 1.2 kb (Plate 6) to probe a Southern blot of the same amplification product, a RAPD reaction directed by primer OPAE-11	64
8	Southern analysis using the band of approximately 0.9 kb (Plate 6) to probe a Southern blot of the same amplification product, a RAPD reaction directed by primer OPAE-11	65



9	Gel electrophoresis of <i>EcoR</i> I digested genomic DNA of control (T_0' , T_0) and irradiated (25 Gy, 40 Gy, 50 Gy, 80 Gy) <i>Mokara</i> Chark Kuan	71
10	Gel electrophoresis of <i>Sac</i> I digested genomic DNA of control (T_0' , T_0) and irradiated (25 Gy, 40 Gy, 50 Gy, 80 Gy) <i>Mokara</i> Chark Kuan	71
11	Southern analysis of <i>EcoR</i> I digested genomic DNA of <i>Mokara</i> Chark Kuan using probe B (approx. 1.1 kb)	72
12	Southern analysis of <i>Sac</i> I digested genomic DNA of <i>Mokara</i> Chark Kuan using probe B (approx. 1.1 kb)	72
13	Southern analysis of <i>EcoR</i> I digested genomic DNA of <i>Mokara</i> Chark Kuan using pAL108 as probe	73
14	Southern analysis of <i>Sac</i> I digested genomic DNA of <i>Mokara</i> Chark Kuan using pAL108 as probe	73
15	Gel electrophoresis of pAL108 and pAL202	74
16	Southern analysis of pAL108 and pAL202 using pAL202 as probe	75
17	Southern analysis of pAL108 and pAL202 using pAL108 as probe	75



LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AP	:	2-amino-purine
bp	:	base pair
BU	:	5-bromo-uracil
BUdR	:	5-bromo-deoxynridine
°C	:	degree(s) Celsius
cm	:	centimetre(s)
⁶⁰ Co	:	cobalt-60
CTAB	:	cetyltrimethylammonium bromide
CV	:	coefficient of variation
DES	:	diethyl sulphate
DF	:	degree of freedom
DNA	:	deoxyribonucleic acid
EDTA	:	ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid
EMS	:	ethyl methanesulphonate
g	:	gram(s)
Gy	:	Gray(s)
Gy/s	:	Gray(s) per second
HCl	:	hydrochloric acid
HNO ₂	:	nitrous acid
hr(s)	:	hour(s)

IPMS	:	isopropyl methanesulphonate
kb	:	kilobase
LB	:	Luria-Bertani
LD	:	lethal dose
M	:	molar(s)
MeV	:	megaelectron volt(s)
min	:	minute(s)
MINT	:	Malaysia Institute for Nuclear Technology Research
ml	:	mililitre(s)
mM	:	milimolar(s)
MNH	:	N-nitroso-N-methyl urea
MNU	:	N-nitroso urea
ng	:	nanogram(s)
NaCl	:	sodium chloride
NaOH	:	sodium hydroxide
NH ₂ OH	:	hydroxylamine
nm	:	nanometre(s)
nM	:	nanomolar(s)
NPK	:	sodium:phosphorous:potassium (ratio)
PCR	:	polymerase chain reaction
pH	:	hydrogen ion concentration

PLBs	:	protocorm-like bodies
psi	:	pound(s) per square inch
PVP	:	polyvinylpyrrolidone
RAPD	:	random amplified polymorphic DNA
RCBD	:	Random Complete Block Design
RNA	:	ribonucleic acid
rpm	:	revolution(s) per minute
SCARs	:	sequenced characterised amplified regions
SDS	:	sodium dodecyl sulphate
sec	:	second(s)
SSC	:	saline-sodium citrate
TAE	:	Tris-acetate-EDTA
TE	:	Tris-EDTA
Tris-HCl	:	Tris(hydroxymethyl) aminomethane hydrochloride
UV	:	ultraviolet
V	:	volt(s)
VW	:	Vacin and Went's formulation medium (modified)
μg	:	microgram(s)
μl	:	microlitre(s)
γ	:	gamma

Abstract of thesis submitted to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Agricultural Science.

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ADRAIN LING CHIENG KUANG

February 1999

Chairman: Associate Professor Saleh bin Kadzimin, Ph.D.

Faculty : Agriculture

Mutation breeding is an alternative strategy to conventional breeding. The physical mutagen, gamma (γ) radiation, has long been used in various mutation breeding programmes. In this connection it is necessary to determine the optimum dose before starting any mutation breeding programme.

In vitro cultured protocorm-like bodies (PLBs) of 2 orchid hybrids, *Mokara* Chark Kuan and *Dendrobium* Jacky were used to study the effects of γ -irradiation and to determine the optimum dose. The PLBs were irradiated with γ -rays at different doses of 0, 25, 50, 75, 100, 125 and 150 Grays (Gy) in Set I



and 0, 20, 40, 60 and 80 Gy in Set II of the experiment. A series of observations on the effects of γ -irradiation were recorded. Effects on genomic DNA were also observed.

The present study showed that irradiation resulted in various degrees of lethality to *in vitro* cultures of both *Mokara* Chark Kuan and *Dendrobium* Jacky. Decrease in survival with increasing doses of γ -irradiation was significantly observed. Optimum dose of γ -irradiation for *in vitro* cultures of *Mokara* Chark Kuan and *Dendrobium* Jacky were estimated to be in the range of 20-40 Gy and 60-70 Gy respectively.

Regeneration of plantlets was found to decline when higher irradiation doses were applied. Irradiation also has inhibited regeneration of *in vitro* cultures of both hybrids.

In general, fresh weight, dry weight and dry weight gain of *in vitro* cultures of *Mokara* Chark Kuan and *Dendrobium* Jacky decreased with increasing of γ -irradiation doses. *In vitro* cultures of *Mokara* Chark Kuan irradiated at 40 Gy were found to have higher fresh weight than those irradiated at 20 Gy but still lower than the control. Higher fresh weight, dry weight and

dry weight gain were observed in cultures of *Dendrobium* Jacky irradiated at 80 Gy.

In the present study, polymorphic DNA was detected by 2 random primers via polymerase chain reaction (PCR) between 7 DNA samples of *Mokara* Chark Kuan. Variations caused by repeated subculture and irradiation were detected by random amplified polymorphic DNA (RAPD) analysis. Homology search using 2 sequences (pAL108 and pAL202) from polymorphic bands as query sequences revealed close similarity to retrotransposons. No polymorphism could be detected by the primers used in RAPD analysis of *Dendrobium* Jacky DNA samples.



Abstrak tesis ini diserahkan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk penganugerahan ijazah Master Sains Pertanian.

**KESAN RADIASI GAMMA KE ATAS KULTUR *IN VITRO* HIBRID
ORKID TERPILIH**

Oleh

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Februari 1999

Pengerusi: Profesor Madya Saleh bin Kadzimin, Ph.D.

Fakulti : Pertanian

Pembiakan mutasi ialah satu strategi alternatif kepada pembiakan konvensional. Mutagen fizikal, sinaran gamma (γ), telah lama digunakan dalam pelbagai program pembiakan mutasi. Dalam hubungan ini, penentuan dos optimum adalah penting sebelum memulakan sesuatu program pembiakan mutasi.

Struktur sel berbentuk protokom (PLBs) daripada 2 hibrid orkid, iaitu *Mokara* Chark Kuan dan *Dendrobium* Jacky yang dikultur secara *in vitro* telah digunakan untuk mengkaji dos optimum dan kesan sinaran γ ke atas kultur *in*



vitro. PLBs telah didedahkan kepada sinaran γ pada dos yang berlainan, iaitu 0, 25, 50, 75, 100, 125 dan 150 Gray (Gy) dalam Set I dan 0, 20, 40, 60 dan 80 Gy dalam Set II. Pemerhatian ke atas kesan-kesan radiasi telah direkodkan. Pemerhatian kesan radiasi ke atas DNA juga dilakukan.

Kajian ini menunjukkan bahawa radiasi γ menyebabkan beberapa tahap kematian kepada kultur *in vitro* *Mokara* Chark Kuan dan *Dendrobium* Jacky. Bilangan PLBs yang hidup terus menurun dengan peningkatan dos radiasi. Dos optimum untuk kultur *in vitro* *Mokara* Chark Kuan dan *Dendrobium* Jacky adalah masing-masing dianggarkan di antara 20-40 Gy dan 60-70 Gy.

Pertumbuhan semula anak pokok didapati merosot apabila dos radiasi yang lebih tinggi digunakan. Radiasi juga didapati merencatkan pertumbuhan semula anak pokok kedua-dua hibrid.

Secara amnya, berat basah, berat kering dan peningkatan berat kering kultur *in vitro* *Mokara* Chark Kuan dan *Dendrobium* Jacky didapati menurun dengan peningkatan dos radiasi γ . Walau bagaimanapun, rawatan 40 Gy bagi *Mokara* Chark Kuan didapati memberi berat basah yang lebih tinggi daripada rawatan 20 Gy tetapi masih kurang daripada kawalan. Berat basah, berat kering

dan peningkatan berat kering yang lebih tinggi telah diperhatikan pada rawatan 80 Gy bagi *Dendrobium* Jacky.

Dalam kajian ini, DNA polimorfik telah dikesan oleh 2 primer rambang menerusi 'polymerase chain reaction' (PCR) di antara 7 sampel DNA *Mokara* Chark Kuan. Variasi yang disebabkan oleh subkultur yang berulang kali dan radiasi telah dikesan oleh 'random amplified polymorphic DNA' (RAPD). Pencarian homologi ke atas 2 turutan (pAL108 and pAL202) daripada jalur-jalur polimorfik telah menunjukkan darjah persamaan yang tinggi kepada retrotransposon. Tiada polimorfisma dapat dikesan pada sampel DNA *Dendrobium* Jacky dalam RAPD oleh primer yang digunakan.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Orchid is one of the major cut flower types grown in numerous tropical countries. It has become an important export commodity in Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand contributing major shares in the floriculture industries of these countries. In Malaysia, orchids have contributed about 40% of the total value of cut flower production in 1995. With the increasing affluence of the local population and that of the importing countries, demand for orchids is expected to increase.

Orchid gains its popularity for its wide range of varieties producing an array of shapes, colours and sizes. However, many of the existing hybrids have been in the market for more than 15 years, with some more than 20. With ever changing tastes and preferences of consumers, there is an urgent need for new and better varieties of orchids. Nevertheless, creation of such varieties through conventional breeding and selection has always been difficult, costly and time-consuming, making it a venture less attractive to many. In addition, improving already established varieties through conventional means is often hampered by genetic sterility.