



ARTICLE

## Phenolic Profile and Volatiles of *in vitro* Propagated *Lavandula angustifolia* Mill. Seedlings

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### ABSTRACT

An effective *in vitro* propagation protocol was designed for *Lavandula angustifolia* Miller, a medicinal aromatic plant that is a prominent source of volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Murashige and Skoog media were supplemented with various concentrations of Plant Growth Regulators (PGRs), and the growth parameters of the nodal segments were examined. Nodal explants formed callus when they were supplemented with 2 mg/L of 6-Benzylaminopurine (BAP). The superior hormonal concentration of Murashige and Skoog (MS) media for the proliferation of shoots from callus cultures (39.33%) was 5 mg/L of 2-Isopentenyl adenine (2iP), and the favorable media for the growth of *L. angustifolia* callus cultures was 1 and 2 mg/L of BAP, with a 98% formation rate in each case. The callus cultures and *in vitro* propagated *L. angustifolia* seedlings obtained from various PGR concentrations of MS media were exposed to qualitative and quantitative analysis in terms of phenolic profiles, flavonoids, High-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) analysis of phenolic acids, and headspace-SPME analysis for volatiles. Such analysis revealed that micropropagated seedlings grown in media containing 1 mg/L of 6-Furfurylaminopurine (KIN) accumulated the highest yield ( $11.95 \pm 0.01$  mg GAE/g) of phenolic acids. In contrast, the lowest concentration ( $2.17 \pm 0.04$  mg GAE/g) was detected in 0.5 mg/L of BAP + 0.5 mg/L of Naphthaleneacetic acid (NAA) media. The plantlets grown in 0.5 mg/L of BAP + 0.5 mg/L of NAA media showed the highest flavonoid yield ( $31.67 \pm 0.06$  µg/g QE/g). In contrast, callus samples exhibited the lowest yield ( $11.59 \pm 0.02$  µg/g QE/g) of flavonoids in MS media supplemented with a concentration of 0.5 mg/L of BAP. HPLC analysis revealed the variability of phenolic acid contents within the callus cultures as well as plantlets, with gallic acid, 4-OH benzoic acid, chlorogenic acid, vanillic acid, caffeic acid, cinnamic acid, and rosmarinic acid being the prominent constituents. The presence of twenty-two chemicals was revealed by headspace-SPME analysis. Eucalyptol, nonanal, borneol, carvone, and β-caryophyllene were the most abundant. This study demonstrated that micropropagation of *L. angustifolia* may be an effective method to produce large numbers of genetically identical plantlets for the production of high-value bio compounds.

### KEYWORDS

Lavender; indirect organogenesis; micropropagation



## 1 Introduction

The genus *Lavandula* is a member of the *Lamiaceae* Lindl. family (mint) and has been used for therapy and other purposes for about 2500 years. It comprises 39 different species, multiple hybrids, and around 400 different known varieties [1]. Most of them are highly appreciated in the fragrance, pharmaceutical, food, and flavor sectors due to their scent, and therapeutic characteristics [2]. The Lamiaceae family contains over 240 genera and approximately 7200 species [3]. Among them, *Lavandula angustifolia* is considered one of the abundant sources of organic compounds and volatile acids, which includes over 100 ingredients that may be used fresh or dried, including 1%–6% volatile oils (monoterpenic compounds, alcohols, and esters), triterpenic acids, coumarins, flavones, resins, and polyphenols [4]. Lavender is primarily indigenous to the Mediterranean region, the Arabian Peninsula, Russia, and Africa [5]. Due to its extensive geographical distribution, and decorative, medicinal, and aromatic characteristics, this species may contribute significantly to the economies of a large number of countries. Bulgaria, France, and China are the world's major lavender oil suppliers. However, numerous other nations have recently increased output significantly [6]. Pharmacological uses of *Lavandula*, such as the essential oils and extracts, are widely documented due to their antiseptic, antifungal, diuretic, antispasmodic, analgesic, sedative, carminative, hypotensive, antimicrobial, and general tonic effects [7].

Like most other fragrant plants, lavender plants can be reproduced both generatively and vegetatively. Certain varieties of lavender can only be multiplied vegetatively by shoot cuttings, while others may be multiplied more quickly and easily by employing both techniques. Therefore, micropropagation is considered one of the best ways to reproduce these kinds of plants as well as produce pathogen-free seedlings [8]. The *in vitro* availability of PGRs such as auxin and cytokinin is critical for callus formation. Light, darkness, and temperature, on the other hand, are all elements that influence callus formation. Calluses can range in color from green to light green, cream, white, and brown and can be categorized into subgroups based on their macroscopic properties [9].

In recent times, there has been an increasing trend toward employing pharmaceutical plants in the fields of perfumery and cosmetics. Hence, the employment of micropropagation techniques that facilitate the swift generation of plants presents itself as a feasible substitute to the traditional *in vivo* propagation methods. Furthermore, the significance of these techniques is deemed critical in the preservation of uncommon, threatened, and valuable botanical specimens that exhibit medicinal and economic significance. Micropropagation uses aseptic *in vitro* culture methods to create new plants from plant components such as roots, stems, anthers, shoots, pollen, seeds, organs, embryos, explants, calluses, single cells, or protoplasts. The study conducted by [10] explored the potential of micropropagation for various lavender species and cultivars under *in vitro* conditions. The findings indicated that both vegetative and generative propagations can be utilized for the propagation of lavender plants [11]. Plant growth regulators (PGRs) are known to perform diverse and significant roles in the growth and development of plants, including but not limited to germination, stem elongation, leaf growth and development, flowering, fruit set and growth, and ripening [12]. The significance of their involvement in micropropagation procedures cannot be overstated, as they play a crucial role in the initiation and growth of plants from explants. According to [13], the occurrence of secondary metabolites in plants is typically limited to specific organs and is also associated with a particular developmental stage of the plant. Moreover, the functionality of secondary metabolites is of utmost importance for the adaptability and conformity of plants to their surroundings [14]. The pharmaceutical, food, and cosmetic industries have increasingly utilized secondary metabolites due to the rise in population and subsequent surge in demand. The conventional techniques employed for the synthesis and procurement of these crucial metabolites appeared inadequate to cater to the elevated requisites of the populace. In recent years, the biotechnological approach has emerged as a viable alternative for the rapid production of secondary metabolites as a solution to the aforementioned issue.

Linalol, linalool acetate, and lavandulyl acetate are the main chemicals identified in *L. angustifolia* essential oils [15]. The amount of linalyl acetate was reported at around 47.56%, linalool at 28.06%, lavandulyl acetate at 4.34%, and  $\alpha$ -terpineol 3.75%, representing 97.81% of the total identified oils [16]. The first isolation of four new compounds (4-hydroxybenzoic acid, methyl-3-(2-hydroxy-4-methoxyphenyl) propanoate, methyl caffeate, and 7-Methoxycoumarin) from *L. angustifolia* is reported in the literature by [17]. Since then, *in vitro* essential oil production of *L. angustifolia* from other sources employing different methods has been reported [1,7,16,18–24].

Plant tissue culture methodologies provide an innovative technique for micropropagation that avoids collecting and transporting plants from their natural settings. Since *L. angustifolia* is highly prominent in nutraceutical, therapeutic, and pharmaceutical characteristics, its VOCs are currently proficiently used in cosmetics, perfume, and pharmaceuticals as well as in other industries. Our study investigated the micropropagation possibilities of nodal explants of *L. angustifolia* Mill. Also, we looked at the phenolic profile, volatiles, and phenolic acids of the *in vitro*-propagated seedlings. We used high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) to separate compound elements and headspace-SPME to determine the volatile contents of both dried callus and seedling samples.

The aims of the study were:

- i) To develop an indirect organogenesis micropropagation protocol for the *L. angustifolia* Mill. using nodal explant types.
- ii) To determine the phenolic profiles and volatiles of *in vitro* propagated seedlings and callus cultures of *L. angustifolia*.

## 2 Material and Methods

### 2.1 Plant Material

Nodal segments of healthy, 4- to 5-year-old *L. angustifolia* “Sevtopolis” seedlings were used as explants obtained during their flowering season from the fields of Konya Food and Agriculture University (37°52' 34.5"N, 32°28'27.1"E). The study was carried out in the laboratory of the Department of Biotechnology at Konya Food and Agriculture University between 2021 and 2022.

### 2.2 Surface Sterilization and Preparation of Culture Conditions

The nodes were taken as explants and cleaned under running tap water for a few minutes. The nodes were then immersed in 70% ethanol (EtOH) for 1 min, and then submerged in a solution containing 20% sodium hypochlorite (NaOCl) + 80% sterile water for 15 min while being agitated occasionally. The sterilizing operation was completed according to the protocol followed by [25] and subsequently by cleaning the nodes three times in the sterile cabinet with sterile water. Murashige and Skoog (MS) media solidified with 5 g/L agar and supplemented with several concentrations and combinations of PGRs such as 6-Benzylaminopurine (BAP), 6-Furfurylaminopurine (KIN), Isopentenyl adenine (2iP), KIN + 2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4 D) + active carbon, and Thidiazuron (TDZ) were used to determine the most suitable media for callus initiation, development, and shoot proliferation. The pH of the media was adjusted to 5.8 using 1 molar NaOH and 1 normal KOH before autoclaving at 121°C for 20 min. All cultures were incubated at 24°C  $\pm$  1°C under white fluorescent lights for a 16 h light photoperiod with a photosynthetic photon flux density of 50  $\mu\text{mol}/\text{m}^2 \text{ s}$ .

### 2.3 Callus Induction

Nodal explants were aseptically cultured on MS media fortified with six different PGRs; BAP (2 mg/L), BAP (5 mg/L), KIN + 2.4D (2 mg/L), KIN (5 mg/L), 2iP (5 mg/L) and 2iP (10 mg/L), including 5 g/L agar. The experiment was carried out in ten triplets, with each combination including 15 culture containers. After

four weeks of incubation, a fraction of responding explants were observed. After three subcultures, fresh calli (100 g) from each callus line were harvested and lyophilized. The resulting powdered material (ca. 5 g) was pooled and divided into three portions for phenolics analysis.

#### 2.4 Shoot Proliferation

*In vitro*-initiated callus cultures of *L. angustifolia* from the callus induction stage were used as explants to find out how different concentrations of MS media with different PGRs affect the growth and proliferation parameters. The excised, soft, creamy, and friable types of callus with a length of approximately 5 mm were aseptically cultured on MS media, including control media and twelve further different combinations and concentrations of PGRs as follows: 1, 2.5, and 5 mg/L of KIN, 0.5, 1, 5, and 10 mg/L of BAP, 0.25 and 2 mg/L of TDZ, 5, 10, and 20 mg/L of 2iP. The experiment was carried out in ten sets of three replicates (ten explants per magenta), and the observations were made after four weeks of incubation.

#### 2.5 Rooting Stage

To evaluate the effects of different combinations of auxin and cytokinin, *in vitro* multiplied seedlings (approx. 1 cm shoots) from the shoot proliferation stage were sub-cultured into three dissimilar MS media as follows: 0.5 mg/L of BAP + 0.5 mg/L of IAA, 0.5 mg/L of BAP + 0.5 mg/L of IBA, and 0.5 mg/L of BAP + 0.5 mg/L of NAA. In the majority of micro-propagation studies, auxins are preferred at higher concentrations and cytokinins at lower levels. Each combination was sub-cultured three times over the course of four weeks. After each subculture, growth metrics were observed.

#### 2.6 Total Phenolic Content (TPC, F-C Assay)

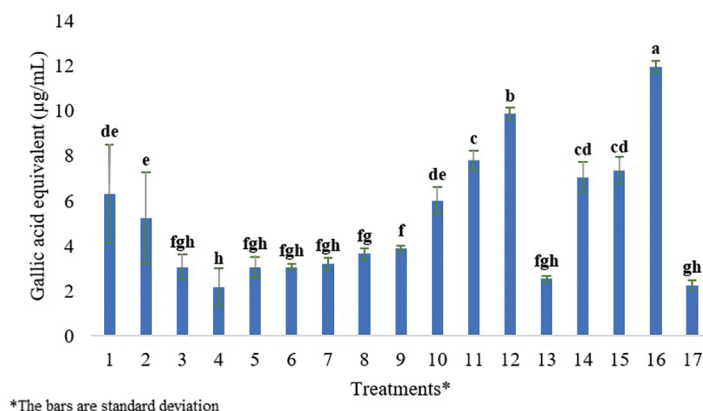
Analyses of the phenolic contents of 17 samples (Table 1), including callus and plantlets from the callus stage, were conducted according to the Folin-Ciocalteu method performed by [26]. Samples were dried and then ground to a fine powder using a grinder. Following that, 4 mg/mL of dried callus and plantlet samples were dissolved in an HPLC-grade methanol solution by vortexing now and then. 1.25 mL of liquid reagent was mixed with 1.25 mL of DI water (DW) to make 50% Folin-Ciocalteu. After that, samples were filtered using a PVDF/L syringe filter with a 25-mm diameter and 0.45-µm pore size. 2.5 g of Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> was weighed and then dissolved in 50 mL of DW to make 5% Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>. For calibration, a 0.1% gallic acid stock solution was made with 2 mg of gallic acid powder and 2 mL of HPLC-grade methanol. Six gallic acid concentrations 0, 20, 40, 60, 80, and 100 µg/mL were prepared. For each concentration, 30 µL of gallic acid, 30 µL of methanol, 150 µL of DW, and 15 µL of Folin reagent were added to a well in a 96-well microplate. After waiting for 5 min, the reaction was initiated by adding 30 µL of 5% Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>. Each concentration tube included 30 µL of gallic acid, which was mixed with 30 µL of methanol, 150 µL of DW, and 15 µL of Folin reagent. After 5 min, the reaction was started by adding 30 µL of 5% Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>. The absorbance of each dilution reaction was measured at 725 nm (in triplicate) after a 60-min incubation in the dark at room temperature using multimode microplate reader equipment. The gallic acid standard curve was formed after this method was repeated for each concentration (Fig. 1).

**Table 1:** List of samples with numeric codes used for TPC and TFC assays

Sample No.	Plant parts	Treatment
1	Callus	Control
2	Callus	BAP 0.5 mg/L
3	Callus	BAP 2 mg/L
4	Callus	BAP 0.5 mg/L + NAA 0.5 mg/L

(Continued)

Table 1 (continued)		
Sample No.	Plant parts	Treatment
5	Callus	TDZ 0.5 mg/L
6	Callus	BAP 0.5 mg/L + IBA 0.5 mg/L
7	Callus	KIN 10 mg/L
8	Callus	BAP 0.5 mg/L + IAA 0.5 mg/L
9	Callus	2iP 5 mg/L
10	Callus	KIN 1 mg/L
11	Plantlet	BAP 0.5 mg/L+ NAA 0.5 mg/L
12	Plantlet	BAP 0.5 mg/L+ IBA 0.5 mg/L
13	Plantlet	BAP 10 mg/L
14	Plantlet	BAP 0.5 mg/L+ IAA 0.5 mg/L
15	Plantlet	2iP 5 mg/L
16	Plantlet	KIN 1 mg/L
17	Plantlet	2iP 20 mg/L



**Figure 1:** Gallic acid equivalent ( $\mu\text{g/mL}$ ) dry weight of both callus and plantlets samples. Each histogram is the mean  $\pm$  S.E. of  $n = 3$ . Different letters above histograms indicate significant differences at  $p \leq 0.05$

## 2.7 Total Flavonoid Content (TFC)

The aluminum chloride colorimetric method, with minor modifications, was adapted from [27]. Initially, a 10% solution of  $\text{AlCl}_3 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$  was prepared. Ten g of  $\text{AlCl}_3 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$  was dissolved in 100 mL of methanol for this purpose. The standard curve was then created by generating several concentrations of quercetin (12.5, 25, 37.5, 50, 62.5, 75, 87.5, and 100 g/mL) using methanol. Material preparation was done by weighing 10 mg from each of the 17 treatments and dissolving it in 2 mL of MeOH with occasional vortexing. The plant extract concentration was fixed at 5 mg/mL. The materials were then filtered via a PVDF/L syringe filter with a 25-mm diameter and 0.45  $\mu\text{m}$  pore size. The flavonoid levels in the 17 samples were determined using the Quercetin Calibration Chart data [28]. Following that, 500  $\mu\text{L}$  of each plant extract was collected in test tubes, and 1500  $\mu\text{L}$  of MeOH, 100  $\mu\text{L}$  of 10%  $\text{AlCl}_3 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , and 2800  $\mu\text{L}$  DW were individually added to each tube. Following 30 min of incubation at room temperature, the

absorbance of the reaction solution was measured at 415 nm using a HITACHI U-5100 UV/V spectrophotometer-Tokyo, Japan (each measured in triplicate).

### 2.8 HPLC Conditions

High-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) analyses of *L. angustifolia* callus cultures and *in vitro* propagated plantlets (Tables 2 and 3) were performed using a Waters e2695 Alliance system, which included an LC-20AT pump, a DGU-20A5 online degasser, a SIL-20A autosampler, an ACE 5 C18 250,6 mm id 5 m column oven, and a 2489 UV/V is detector. The separation was carried out on a Zorbax Eclipse XDB-C8 analytical column (250, 4.6, 5 m) at 40°C. A (2% acetic acid), B (50% ACN: 50% acetic acid (0.5% acetic acid), and C made up the mobile phase (acetonitrile). As solvents, methanol and H<sub>2</sub>O (50:50) were utilized. The flow rate was 1.2 mL per min. Phenolic detection and quantification were carried out at 280 nm of UV light (Table 4).

**Table 2:** Callus cultures-HPLC results µg/g

Phenolic names	Treatments									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Gallic acid	310	192	186	64	164	226	184	254	70	303
4-OH benzoicacid	48	290	77	13	324	35	70	19	8	13
Chlorogenic acid	78	42	34	30	1	ND*	8	ND*	11	21
Vanillic acid	14	4	6	4	137	203	101	211	224	191
Caffeic acid	84	89	28	92	ND*	3	19	ND*	ND*	ND*
Syringic acid	24	17	9	12	52	16	31	26	22	59
Coumaric acid	8	10	10	6	4	26	2	29	2	ND*
Rutin	84	104	130	114	101	90	103	93	99	88
Benzoic acid	ND*	ND*	ND*	265	176	112	104	133	114	108
Cinnamic acid	ND*	ND*	ND*	ND*	ND*	2	ND*	1	2	5
Rosmarinic acid	13	16	14	ND*	ND*	22	4	9	ND*	ND*

Note: \*ND: Not detected.

**Table 3:** *In vitro* propagated plantlet-HPLC results (µg/g)

Phenolic names	Treatments						
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Gallic acid	3	6	60	10	21	8	118
4-OH benzoicacid	19	29	41	7	14	33	10
Chlorogenic acid	297	1603	ND*	85	60	723	5
Vanillic acid	380	513	160	301	315	271	245
Caffeic acid	32	35	ND*	19	33	59	ND*
Syringic acid	398	943	19	92	53	697	57
Coumaric acid	34	39	184	65	2	28	6

(Continued)

<b>Table 3 (continued)</b>							
Phenolic names	Treatments						
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Rutin	70	93	103	78	95	81	88
Benzoic acid	67	119	84	60	90	201	181
Cinnamic acid	21	714	2	6	68	2054	2
Rosmarinic acid	9	20	ND*	ND*	ND*	68	ND*

Note: \*ND: Not detected.

**Table 4:** Phenolic analysis

Duration (min.)	Flow rate (ml/min.)	Mobile phase A	Mobile phase B	Mobile phase C
0	1.2	95	5	0
5	1.2	95	5	0
8	1.2	80	20	0
10	1.2	78	22	0
17	1.2	75	25	0
19	1.2	73	27	0
30	1.2	60	40	0
35	1.2	55	45	0
40	1.2	35	65	0
45	1.2	0	10	90
50	1.2	0	0	100
52	1.2	95	5	0
60	1.2	95	5	0

### 2.9 Volatile Component Analysis

The headspace-SPME method was used to analyze volatile components. Originally, 10 g of plant material from five groups (BAP + IAA, 2iP, KIN, BAP + NAA, and BAP + IBA) were combined in a Waring mixer for three minutes (without the addition of water). 1 g of the plant material was sealed with septa in 10-mL headspace vials. SPME headspace volatiles were collected for 30 min on a Supelco 57348 2 cm, 50/30 m DVB/Carboxen/PDMS Stable-Flex fiber. The fiber was preconditioned at 250°C for 10 min. The period of 30 min was chosen since it produced the greatest number of compounds without affecting composition quality. After sampling, the SPME device was put into the GC injector for the 62-min GC analysis using an RTX-5M column. Headspace analysis was conducted with the assistance of Karadeniz Technical University.

### 2.10 Chemicals and Reagents

In our study, the determination of appropriate concentrations of PGRs for callus induction and shoot formation in tissue culture is guided by a thorough examination of relevant scholarly publications and

empirical observations. The chemicals (Agar, PGRs, etc.) utilized in this study were obtained from DUCHEFA-The Netherlands. For chemical analysis, all solvents were purchased from Sigma.

The utilization of nodal segments with various concentrations of PGRs; TDZ and BAP has proven to be an effective method for *in vitro* propagation of *Lavandula*. Consequently, this approach demonstrates a consistent and uniform development while also exerting an influence on the proliferation of shoots and the rooting of plantlets [10].

Previous studies have indicated that lower concentrations of BAP are effective in shoot multiplication rates, proliferation, and initiating callus cultures of *L. angustifolia* [29,30], while higher concentrations of cytokinin and auxins may lead to the highest leaf length growth [31]. TDZ concentrations of 0.25 and 2 mg/L were selected based on their reported efficacy in shoot induction [25] and [32].

### 2.11 Statistical Analysis

Data was collected for examination of TPC and TFC contents (Table 5), and experiments were repeated three times. Table data are reported as mean  $\pm$  standard errors (SE). Using the acquired data, a one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was performed. To identify homogeneous groups, the Duncan *post-hoc* test was utilized. The statistically significant difference was determined using a *p* value of  $p \leq 0.05$ . The statistical analyses were carried out using IBM SPSS Statistics 22 (IBM SPSS, Chicago, IL, USA).

**Table 5:** Total phenolic and flavonoid contents of callus cultures and plantlets

Sample No.	Total phenolic content	Total flavonoid content
	GAE*(mg/g dry weight)	QE**(μg/g dry weight)
1	6.32 $\pm$ 0.08a	21.38 $\pm$ 0.06a
2	5.24 $\pm$ 0.06a,b	11.59 $\pm$ 0.02c
3	3.06 $\pm$ 0.021c	12.46 $\pm$ 0.00c
4	2.17 $\pm$ 0.04c	13.48 $\pm$ 0.03c
5	3.06 $\pm$ 0.04c	16.16 $\pm$ 0.02b
6	3.06 $\pm$ 0.06c	16.74 $\pm$ 0.00b
7	3.21 $\pm$ 0.06c	12.32 $\pm$ 0.00c
8	3.65 $\pm$ 0.08b,c	21.01 $\pm$ 0.04a
9	3.87 $\pm$ 0.07c	12.54 $\pm$ 0.00c
10	6.02 $\pm$ 0.02a	21.38 $\pm$ 0.00a
11	7.8 $\pm$ 0.008b	31.67 $\pm$ 0.06a
12	9.87 $\pm$ 0.009b	30.51 $\pm$ 0.03a
13	2.54 $\pm$ 0.001d	14.93 $\pm$ 0.04c
14	7.06 $\pm$ 0.02b	21.81 $\pm$ 0.00b
15	7.36 $\pm$ 0.02b	15.58 $\pm$ 0.02c
16	11.95 $\pm$ 0.01a	20.29 $\pm$ 0.06b
17	2.24 $\pm$ 0.002d	15.29 $\pm$ 0.05c

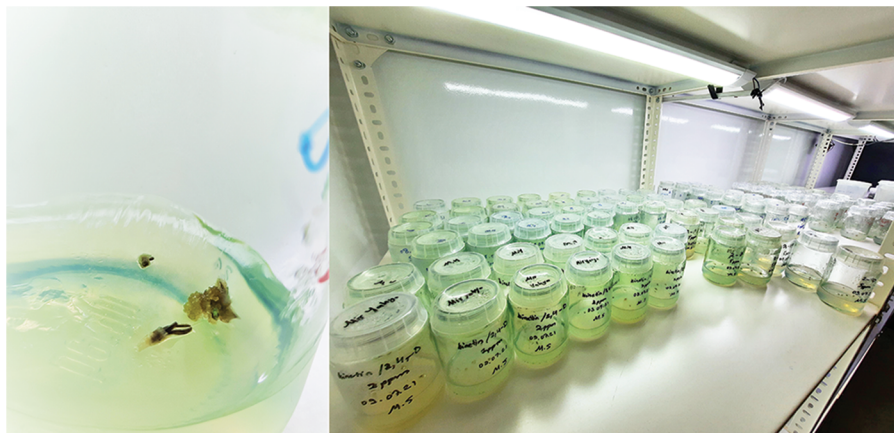
Note: \*GAE: Gallic acid equivalent, \*\*QE: Quercetin equivalent.  $\pm$  is the standard deviation using the Duncan *post-hoc* test to identify homogenous groups. Values denoted by the same letters are not statistically significantly different at  $p \leq 0.05$ .



### 3 Results

#### 3.1 Callus Induction

After four weeks of incubation, observations on growth parameters indicated that friable type callus development (Fig. 2) had occurred in two vessels (3%) of MS media containing 5 g/L agar supplemented with 2 mg/L of BAP (Table 6). Under either full darkness of the incubation room, the control and other treatments showed no improvement (0%).



**Figure 2:** Friable callus development from the *L. angustifolia* nodal segment

**Table 6:** The effect of varying PGR concentrations on the development of callus culture from nodal segments of *L. angustifolia* Mill.

Treatment	Concentration (mg/L)	TEFC*	Response
KIN + 2.4 D	2	0	No response
BAP	2	2	Callus formation
BAP	5	0	No response
KIN	5	0	No response
2iP	5	0	No response
2iP	10	0	No response
Control	N/A**	0	No response

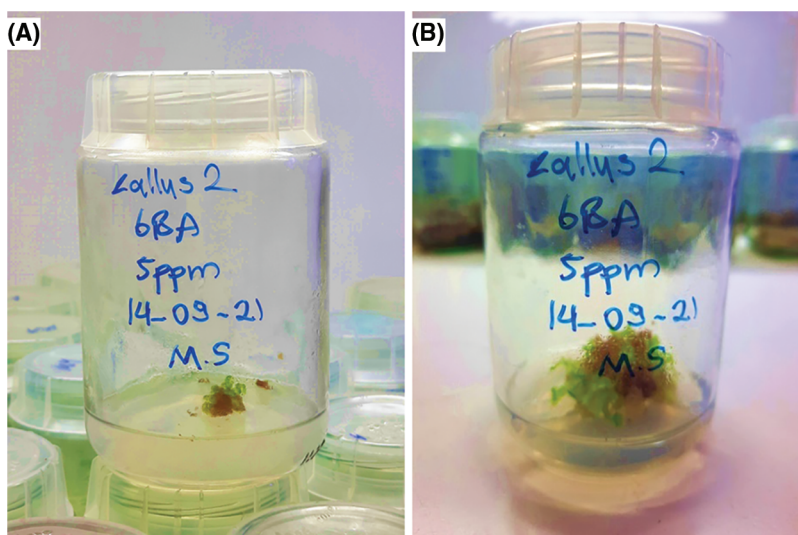
Note: \*TEFC: Total number of explants that formed callus. \*\*N/A: Not applicable.

#### 3.2 Shoot Proliferation

The first shoot was initiated in MS media enriched with 5 mg/L of BAP (Fig. 3). Table 7 contains findings on contamination, browning, shoot induction, and callus formation percentages, following three successful subcultures in MS media. The number of shoots per explant varied between five to twelve.

Table 7 shows the micropropagation, callus formation, and browning rates from 150 cultured explants. Fifty-nine of the 150 cultured callus grew shoots, which means that 5 mg/L of 2iP is the best medium for the growth of shoots from *L. angustifolia* callus cultures. Callus explants in 1 and 2 mg/L of BAP were reported in 147 out of 150 explants (98%), with this treatment being the optimal medium for *L. angustifolia* callus development and survival. The 5 mg/L of 2iP (39.33%) followed by 1 mg/L of KIN (30.67%) proved to be the ideal media for micropropagation of *L. angustifolia* from callus cultures. Treatments of 0.5, 1, and

10 mg/L of BAP had no influence (0%) on the micropropagation rate of explants. It was revealed that 1 and 2 mg/L of BAP treatments (98%) favorably influenced callus formation, but 20 mg/L of 2iP (20%) was shown to be an unfavorable medium for callus formation. Browning occurred at a significant incidence (63.33%) in 2 mg/L of TDZ, while no browning was observed in 2 mg/L of BAP media (0% in all trials).



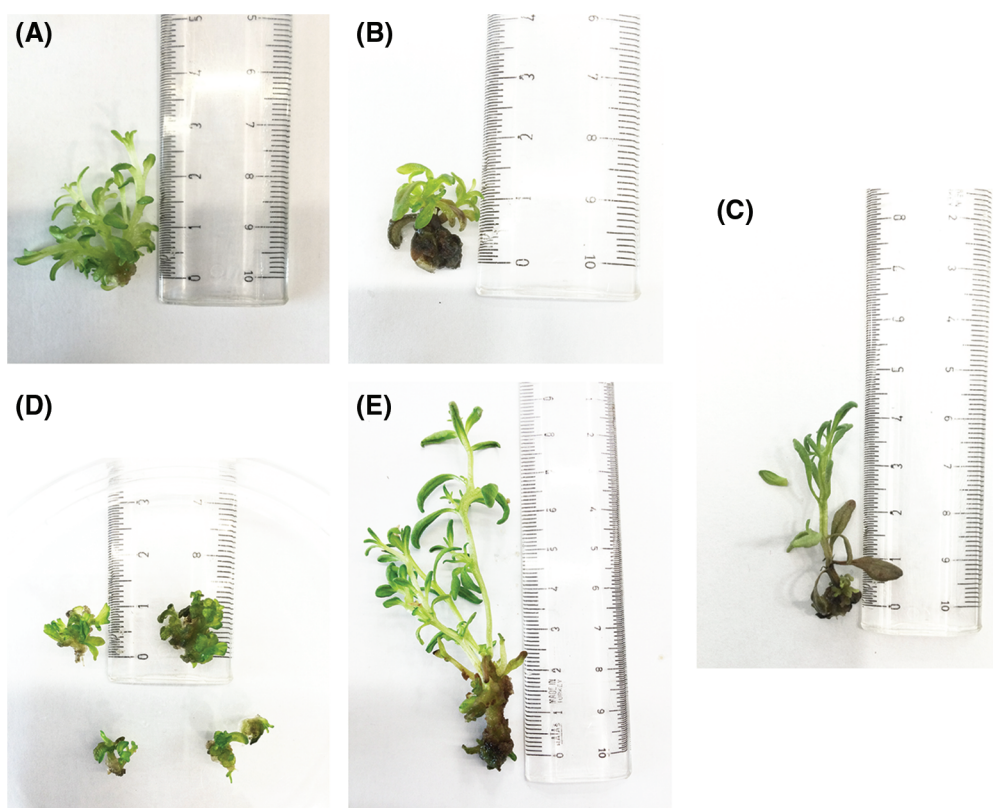
**Figure 3:** Shoot callus formation in 5 mg/L of BAP before (A) and after (B) four weeks of incubation

**Table 7:** Effects of PGRs on contamination, browning, shoot induction, and callus formation percentages of cultured callus explants

Treatment	Concentration (mg/L)	Contamination (out of 150 explants)	Browning %	Shoot induction %	Callus formation %
KIN	1	0	3.33	30.67	66.00
KIN	2.5	2	36.67	20.00	42.00
KIN	5	1	33.33	12.67	53.33
BAP	0.5	0	11.33	0.00	88.67
BAP	1	0	2.00	0.00	<b>98.00</b>
BAP	2	0	0.00	2.00	<b>98.00</b>
BAP	5	0	38.00	5.33	56.67
BAP	10	0	28.67	0.00	71.33
TDZ	0.25	0	40.67	4.67	54.67
TDZ	2	2	<b>63.33</b>	1.33	34.00
2iP	5	0	34.67	<b>39.33</b>	26.00
2iP	10	1	58.67	8.67	32.00
2iP	20	0	60.67	19.33	20.00
Control	N/A	0	48.00	2.00	50.00

### 3.3 Rooting Stage

The medium supplemented with 0.5 mg/L of BAP + 0.5 mg/L of IAA, 0.5 mg/L of BAP + 0.5 mg/L of IBA, and 0.5 mg/L of BAP + 0.5 mg/L of NAA concentrations of auxin and cytokinin did not affect plantlet root development (Fig. 4) after three subcultures (four weeks of incubation each). During the rooting stage, the plantlets exhibited continued growth, with the tallest plantlet measuring 9 cm in a growth media containing 0.5 mg/L of BAP and 0.5 mg/L of IBA.



**Figure 4:** *In vitro* propagated seedlings obtained from several media. (A) No root development was seen in media containing 0.5 mg/L BAP + 0.5 mg/L NAA. The tallest plantlet was 3 cm tall. (B) No root development was seen in media containing 0.5 mg/L BAP + 0.5 mg/L IAA. The tallest plantlet stood 1.5 cm tall. (C) No root development was seen in media containing 1 mg/L KIN. (D) No root development was seen in media supplemented with 10 mg/L 2iP. The tallest plantlet was 1 cm tall. (E) No root development was seen in 0.5 mg/L BAP + 0.5 mg/L IBA. The higher mean height of the plantlets in this media (9 cm) indicated the most effective media for the shoot growth of *L. angustifolia*

### 3.4 Total Phenolic Content (TPC, F-C Assay) and Total Flavonoid Content (TFC)

Total Phenolic Content (TPC) and Total Flavonoid Content (TFC) analysis of callus samples indicates that plants propagated on the control media exhibited the greatest phenolic content ( $6.32 \pm 0.08$  mg/g). In contrast, the cultures grown in 0.5 mg/L of BAP + 0.5 mg/L of NAA provided the lowest amount of phenolic content ( $2.17 \pm 0.04$  mg/g).

Plantlets propagated on the 1 mg/L of KIN and control growth media medium showed the greatest flavonoid content yield ( $21.38 \pm 0.06$   $\mu$ g/g). The lowest quantity of flavonoid content was obtained from plantlets cultivated on the growth media that included 0.5 mg/L of BAP ( $11.59 \pm 0.02$   $\mu$ g/g). TPC and

TFC analysis of plantlet samples (Table 5) revealed that 1 mg/L of KIN media had the greatest phenolic content ( $11.95 \pm 0.01$  mg/g). On the other hand, growth media supplemented with 20 mg/L of 2iP produced plants containing the lowest phenolic content ( $2.24 \pm 0.002$  mg/g). Plantlets propagated in media containing 0.5 mg/L of BAP + 0.5 mg/L of NAA exhibited the maximum flavonoid content ( $31.67 \pm 0.06$   $\mu$ g/g). In contrast, plantlets propagated on the growth media containing 10 mg/L of BAP had the lowest levels of flavonoid content ( $14.93 \pm 0.04$   $\mu$ g/g).

### 3.5 HPLC Results

High-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) findings for callus cultures were determined quantitatively using 11 standards. The maximum concentration of gallic acid was obtained in extracts of dried callus cultures of *L. angustifolia* grown on MS control media (310  $\mu$ g/g), followed by 1 mg/L of KIN (303  $\mu$ g/g), and the lowest concentration was observed from extracts of 0.5 mg/L of BAP + 0.5 mg/L of NAA media (64  $\mu$ g/g). On the other hand, compared to the other treatments the highest yields (324  $\mu$ g/g) of 4-OH Benzoic acid were extracted from callus cultures grown on 0.5 mg/L of TDZ media, followed by 0.5 mg/L of BAP (290  $\mu$ g/g) media, while the lowest quantity was obtained from cultures cultivated on 5 mg/L of 2iP (8  $\mu$ g/g) media. The maximum concentration of chlorogenic acid was obtained from callus cultures developed in the control media (78  $\mu$ g/g), while the lowest was observed in those from 0.5 mg/L of TDZ (1  $\mu$ g/g) media. There was no chlorogenic acid discovered in calluses from the medium containing 0.5 mg/L of BAP + 0.5 mg/L of IBA and 0.5 mg/L of BAP + 0.5 mg/L of IAA. Vanillic acid was another important extracted component, with the maximum amount supplied by the callus cultures propagated in media containing 0.5 mg/L of 2iP (224  $\mu$ g/g), while the lowest amount was provided by the cultures obtained from 0.5 mg/L of BAP and 0.5 mg/L of BAP + 0.5 mg/L of NAA medium, giving 4  $\mu$ g/g. The maximum quantity of caffeic acid (92  $\mu$ g/g) was exhibited by the callus cultures grown in 0.5 mg/L of BAP + 0.5 mg/L of NAA media, whereas the lowest amount was produced by callus cultures grown in 0.5 mg/L of BAP + 0.5 mg/L of IBA (3  $\mu$ g/g) media. There was no caffeic acid found in the medium 0.5 mg/L of TDZ, 0.5 mg/L of BAP + 0.5 mg/L of IAA, 5 mg/L of 2iP, and 1 mg/L of KIN of the seedlings. Cinnamic acid levels were greatest in the calluses propagated in 1 mg/L of KIN (5  $\mu$ g/g), followed by 5 mg/L of 2iP and 0.5 mg/L of BAP + 0.5 mg/L of IBA (2  $\mu$ g/g) media. The cultures in control, 0.5 mg/L of BAP, 2 mg/L of BAP, 0.5 mg/L of BAP + 0.5 mg/L of NAA, 0.5 mg/L of TDZ, and 10 mg/L of KIN medium supplied no cinnamic acid. Rosmarinic acid was found at its maximum concentration in callus cultures cultivated on 0.5 mg/L of BAP + 0.5 mg/L of IBA (22  $\mu$ g/g) media. In comparison, the smallest level was identified in calluses propagated 10 mg/L of KIN (4  $\mu$ g/g) media. There was no rosmarinic acid found in the cultures propagated in 0.5 mg/L of BAP + 0.5 mg/L of NAA, 0.5 mg/L of TDZ, 5 mg/L of 2iP, and 1 mg/L of KIN medium. In our study, the optimal media for producing benzoic acid from *L. angustifolia* callus cultures was determined to be 0.5 mg/L of BAP + 0.5 mg/L of NAA (265  $\mu$ g/g) (Table 2).

Table 3 displays findings on HPLC results for *in vitro*-propagated plantlets. The study used an HPLC instrument to analyze 11 standards, with the maximum output of gallic acid observed in extracts of dried *in vitro* propagated plantlets of *L. angustifolia* grown on MS media with 20 mg/L of 2iP (118  $\mu$ g/g), followed by 10 mg/L of BAP (60  $\mu$ g/g). In contrast, the plantlets grown in 0.5 mg/L of BAP + 0.5 mg/L of IBA yielded the least quantity (3  $\mu$ g/g). The findings, on the other hand, demonstrate that 41  $\mu$ g/g of 4-OH Benzoic acid was obtained from plantlets grown in 10 mg/L of BAP medium, followed by 1 mg/L of KIN (33  $\mu$ g/g), which displays the greatest yields compared to others. The lowest quantity was observed from plantlets grown in 0.5 mg/L of BAP + 0.5 mg/L of IAA (7  $\mu$ g/g). The quantity of chlorogenic acid in the list is significant due to the production of the greatest rate from the seedlings grown in the 0.5 mg/L of BAP + 0.5 mg/L of IBA medium, which yielded 1603  $\mu$ g/g. In contrast, plantlets grown in 20 mg/L of 2iP media only generated 5  $\mu$ g/g. Chlorogenic acid was not detected in the seedlings grown in the

10 mg/L of BAP media. The maximum production of vanillic acid (513 µg/g) was obtained from plantlets grown in 0.5 mg/L of BAP + 0.5 mg/L of IBA, while the lowest was found in plantlets grown in 10 mg/L of BAP (160 µg/g). Meanwhile, plantlets grown in 1 mg/L of KIN media accounted for the most caffeic acid (59 µg/g), whereas the plantlets grown in 0.5 mg/L of BAP + 0.5 mg/L of IAA (19 µg/g) accounted for the least. This means that no caffeic acid was detected in the seedlings propagated in 10 mg/L of BAP.

### 3.6 Volatile Component Analysis

A total of 21 components were isolated from *L. angustifolia* plantlets grown *in vitro* (Table 8). The highest concentration of eucalyptol was found in plantlets cultivated on 5 mg/L of 2iP (5.32%). The lowest yield was generated by the plantlets propagated in 0.5 mg/L of BAP + 0.5 mg/L of NAA media, which produced 2.8%. Results indicate that the MS medium containing 0.5 mg/L of BAP, and 0.5 mg/L of IAA (0%) have no effect on eucalyptol production in *L. angustifolia* calluses/plantlets. In contrast, the highest nonanal concentration was found in plantlets cultivated on 5 mg/L of BAP (4.11%), while the lowest concentration was found in plantlets grown on 1 mg/L of KIN (2.18%). The results indicate that plantlets grown in 0.5 mg/L of BAP + 0.5 mg/L of IAA and 0.5 mg/L of BAP + 0.5 mg/L of NAA did not accumulate nonanal. The highest concentration of Borneol was found in plantlets cultivated on 0.5 mg/L of BAP + 0.5 mg/L of NAA media (11.90%), while the lowest concentration was found in plantlets grown in 1 mg/L of KIN media (3.65%). Carvone yield was highest at 22.78% seedlings grown in 0.5 mg/L of BAP + 0.5 mg/L of IAA. In contrast, the lowest concentration was found in seedlings obtained from the 5 mg/L of 2iP media, which accounted for 6.92% of the total. Among the various trials, β-Caryophyllene emerged as the most prevalent component. Notably, the highest yield of this compound was obtained from plantlets in the presence of 1 mg/L of KIN media, constituting 30.74% of the total output. Conversely, the lowest production of β-Caryophyllene was recorded in the trial involving plantlets grown in 0.5 mg/L of BAP + 0.5 mg/L of IBA, amounting to 14.90%. In contrast to the aforementioned findings, the presence of β-Caryophyllene was not detected in plantlets cultivated on 0.5 mg/L of BAP and 0.5 mg/L of IAA. The study found that certain volatile components were present in the *in vitro* propagated plantlets of *L. angustifolia*. The identified components accounted for varying percentages in different concentrations of PGRs, such as BAP+IAA, 2iP, KIN, BAP+NAA, and BAP+IBA. The percentages ranged from 0.59% to 20.63%, as shown in Table 8.

**Table 8:** Volatile components of *L. angustifolia* plantlets obtained from five different media

Component name	Retention time	Retention index	Treatment %				
			14	15	16	11	12
<b>Eucalyptol</b>	17.015	1034	–	<b>5.32</b>	5.14	2.8	5.1
<b>Nonanal</b>	20.200	1110	–	<b>4.11</b>	2.18	–	3.47
Ethylhexanoic acid	21.050	1129	–	12.58	8.98	6.70	11.08
<b>Borneol</b>	23.410	1185	6.67	10.2	3.65	<b>11.90</b>	7.75
<b>Carvone</b>	29.375	1329	<b>22.78</b>	6.92	3.38	14.54	10.47
Dodecanal	34.02	1447	1.45	–	–	–	–
α-Santalene	34.830	1468	–	4.3	1.92	3.0	–
<b>β-Caryophyllene</b>	35.030	1473	–	16.90	<b>30.74</b>	18.60	14.90
Trans-Muurolo-4(14), 5-diene	36.025	1499	–	1.7	3.95	1.4	–

(Continued)

Table 8 (continued)								
Component name	Retention time	Retention index	Treatment %					
			14	15	16	11	12	
Germacrene A	38.425	1565	–	4.20	1.90	3.45	1.8	
$\gamma$ -Cadinene	38.830	1576	20.10	7.20	20.08	16.9	15.45	
cis-Calamenene	39.130	1584	–	2.10	–	–	–	
Caryophyllene oxide	41.665	1657	–	3.55	1.44	2.80	1.95	
Cyclic tetramethylene adipate	43.435	1708	4.35	–	2.63	–	–	
$\delta$ -Cadinene	43.710	1716	5.9	2.67	4.22	2.8	5.3	
Diisobutyl phthalate	51.455	1959	6.38	2.87	–	–	–	
Muscalure	51.775	1969	6.37	–	1.98	–	–	
Eicosane	55.555	2204	3.52	–	–	1.0	–	
Stearyl morpholine	58.530	1973	16.14	2.48	–	2.21	2.05	
Heneicosane	58.640	2208	2.90	–	–	–	–	
Tetracontane	60.675	2284	2.85	–	–	–	–	
Unknown	–	–	0.59	12.9	3.81	11.9	20.68	
Total			100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	

#### 4 Discussion and Conclusion

The present investigation focused on the *in vitro* propagation of *L. angustifolia* Mill., a significant aromatic and medicinal plant that serves as the primary origin of various volatile organic compounds (VOCs). The micropropagation was conducted under aseptic conditions, and the impact of various plant growth regulators on callus induction, shoot formation, and root formation was documented. This study investigated the total phenolic content (TPC), total flavonoid content (TFC), and high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) analyses of callus and *in vitro* propagated plantlets, as well as the volatile profile of plantlets.

Reference [33] conducted a comprehensive study into the long-term micropropagation of five distinct cultivars of *L. angustifolia*. The researchers examined morphogenesis, and physiological, and biochemical parameters across a span of nine passages. The study elucidates the disparities in shoot multiplication indices across different cultivars, variations in water content, levels of photosynthetic activity, and enzyme activity. Both our study and the study conducted by [33] highlight the efficacy of *in vitro* propagation. However, they diverge in terms of their respective emphases. Our study primarily focuses on the potential for bio-compound production, whereas reference [33] provided a comprehensive examination of physiological and biochemical factors, such as water content, proline, ascorbic acid, and enzyme activities. Both studies offer significant contributions to the field of *L. angustifolia* micropropagation, albeit from distinct perspectives, thereby enhancing the comprehensive understanding of the process.

According to [34], the utilization of BAP as a PGR exhibits promising outcomes for the propagation of *L. angustifolia*. Reference [35] found that the most effective combination for the proliferation of callus cultures was MS media supplemented with 8.88  $\mu$ M (1 mg/L) BAP + 5.36  $\mu$ M (1 mg/L) NAA (92%).

The research conducted by [36] demonstrated the favorable impact of 2,4-D on the generation of callus in *L. angustifolia*. Moreover, it was proposed that subjecting leaf explants to a concentration of 2 mg/L of 2,4-D and 2 mg/L of BAP under conditions of darkness may serve as a viable method for inducing callus and promoting its growth. Our study's findings indicate that BAP media was identified as the optimal media for the growth and development of *L. angustifolia* callus cultures, whereas 2iP media demonstrated the highest efficacy for the propagation of shoots from callus cultures of *L. angustifolia*. The findings about shoot proliferation in our study are consistent with those reported by [37].

The issue of oxidative browning in the callus culture of *L. angustifolia* hindered the formation and survival of callus cultures. According to [38], this issue is widely recognized as one of the most significant and pressing obstacles encountered in the realm of plant tissue cultures. The findings of our study indicate that the MS media, which was supplemented with 2 mg/L of TDZ and 20 mg/L of 2iP, was the most effective medium for reducing oxidative browning in the callus cultures of *L. angustifolia*. Reference [38] proposed the use of antioxidants, such as citric acid at a concentration of 10–50 mg/L or ascorbic acid at a concentration of 20–100 mg/L, as a means of mitigating the reduction in browning intensity observed in callus cultures. Reference [35] suggested that the leaf explants of *L. angustifolia* are a suitable option for indirect organogenesis regeneration due to their ability to cause less phenolic oxidation and contamination.

Our investigations have delineated that varying concentrations of auxin and cytokinin media did not exert any influence on the development of roots in plantlets, even following three successive subcultures, each of which lasted for a duration of four weeks. In contrast, the plantlets in the rooting phase exhibited growth, whereas no instances of root development were detected across all experimental groups subjected to the rooting media treatments. In terms of the initiation of *L. angustifolia* roots, the study by [39] highlighted a favorable outcome, achieved through the use of half-strength modified MS basal media, which was supplemented with 30 g/L sucrose and varying concentrations of IAA, IBA, and NAA. The utilization of half-strength MS and extended plantlet maintenance were not feasible in our investigation. Consequently, it is plausible to assert that these circumstances could hurt the rooting phases of our research.

Reference [22] conducted a study that underscored that the callus culture of *L. officinalis* water extracts in 0.5 mg/L of BAP + 0.5 mg/L of NAA media had the highest phenolic content ( $35.74 \pm 0.48$  mg GAE/g). In their study, the growth media that was enriched with 0.5 mg/L of KIN + 2 mg/L of 2,4-D yielded the lowest quantity of  $24.22 \pm 1.03$  mg GAE/g. In contrast, the media containing 0.5 mg/L of BAP + 1 mg/L of 2,4-D exhibited the highest level of flavonoid contents, measuring at  $32.42 \pm 0.46$  mg QE/g, while the media enriched with 0.5 mg/L of BAP + 2 mg/L of NAA yielded the minimum flavonoid content ( $11.64 \pm 0.80$  mg QE/g). In contrast to our investigation, it was observed that the control media exhibited the highest level of phenolic accumulation among the callus samples, while the lowest level was recorded in the media containing 0.5 mg/L of BAP and 0.5 mg/L of NAA. The growth media containing a combination of 0.5 mg/L of BAP resulted in the lowest flavonoid contents in the plantlets, while plants developed on the control medium and growth media with 1 mg/L of KIN recorded the highest flavonoid contents.

Our findings regarding HPLC analysis of callus cultures and *in vitro* propagated plantlet samples indicate that the maximum concentration of rosmarinic acid was observed solely in 1 mg/L of KIN media, with a value of 68  $\mu$ /g, as determined from the dried samples. The minimum value was derived from desiccated callus culture specimens that comprised a blend of 10 mg/L of KIN media. The findings demonstrate that the incorporation of various concentrations of BAP and NAA, TDZ, 2iP, and KIN into the media did not yield any significant impact on the synthesis of rosmarinic acid in the callus cultures of *L. angustifolia*. Additionally, it was observed that the *in vitro* propagated plantlets of *L. angustifolia*,

treated with 0.5 mg/L of BAP + 0.5 mg/L of IAA, 10 mg/L of BAP, and 5 mg/L of 2iP (0%), did not exhibit any presence of rosmarinic acid. Upon examination of [40] research, it is apparent that the reported rosmarinic acid levels in *Lavandula* spp. are inconsistent, with the highest amount being documented as 3.0–3.3 mg/g (3000–3300 µg). Our study revealed that the dried plantlet samples exhibited the highest concentration of rosmarinic acid at 0.068 mg/g (68 µg) when grown in 1 mg/L of KIN media.

Our study investigated the volatile components of *L. angustifolia* plantlets cultivated on five different types of media. The results revealed that the major components of the *L. angustifolia* plantlets were eucalyptol (5.32%) in 5 mg/L of 2iP, nonanal (4.11%) in 5 mg/L of 2iP, borneol (11.90%) in 0.5 mg/L of BAP + 0.5 mg/L of NAA, carvone (22.78%) in 0.5 mg/L of BAP + 0.5 mg/L of IAA, and β-Caryophyllene (30.74%) in 1 mg/L of KIN media, respectively. The aforementioned quantities exhibit a significant disparity when compared to the findings of [41]’s research, where the eucalyptol content in the fresh lavender mixture was found to be 12.08% as per the tabulated data.

Reference [42] discovered that *Lavandula x intermedia* essential oil exhibits variations in the concentrations of linalool, linalyl acetate, and camphor, with values of 34.8 (43.3%), 4.35 (42.5%), and 7.27 (12.5%), respectively. Furthermore, the research conducted by [43] revealed that the primary components present in *L. viridis* samples grown *in vivo* were 1,8-cineole (74.0%, 51.9%, and 57.8%) and camphor (2.9%, 15.3%, and 8.7%), respectively. The abovementioned pointed out the *in vitro* production of valuable plant metabolites such as linalool and linalyl acetate. However, our results show that such metabolites cannot be produced *in vitro*, at least in the early stage of plant growth. This reality is also valid for phenolic production at lower quantities.

Our findings suggest that somaclonal variation in plant tissue culture operations can have significant implications. It has been observed that *in vitro* settings impacted the biochemical profile of essential oils in callus cultures and *in vitro* propagated plantlets of *L. angustifolia*, as the HPLC analysis revealed a lower frequency of chemicals in propagated plantlets and callus cultures as well as a lack of production of major phenolic compounds.

This study has shown a successful indirect micropropagation protocol for *L. angustifolia* Mill. This is evident by examining the several concentrations of PGRs in MS media. Furthermore, by conducting HPLC and headspace-SPME analysis of both dried callus cultures and micro-propagated plantlets, the effect of somaclonal variations *in vitro* settings was observed. These effects are evident in the chemical composition of the plantlets, which will determine their value as a source of nutraceuticals and the viability of the plants when grown under field or greenhouse conditions where biotic stress may occur.

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