

# Protoplast Isolation and Callus Formation in *Oroxylum indicum* (L.) Vent

## Research Article

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### Abstract

A simple protoplast isolation protocol from leaf of a medicinally important endangered tree *Oroxylum indicum* (L.) Vent. was designed to recover totipotent plant protoplasts. The key elements of the protocol are, use of protoplast releasing enzymes (cellulase, pectinase and hemicellulose) alone and in combination in different concentrations for different incubation period of time. Study revealed that protoplast yield was obtained maximum ( $6 \times 10^5$ ) in the 13S CPW provided with two combinations of enzymes (hem1+ cel 0.1+pec 0.1 and hem1+ cel 0.5 + pec 0.5). Whereas maximum protoplast viability (70.51%) obtained on hem1+ cel 0.1+pec 0.1 (13S CPW). The optimum time of incubation was observed 4 hrs ( $25 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$  temp). The isolated protoplast grown gradually when the suspension of protoplast was inoculated on MS media containing (BAP  $1 \text{ mgL}^{-1}$  and  $\text{AgNO}_3$   $2 \text{ mgL}^{-1}$ ). The protocol has ensured reproducibility, higher yields and is gentle, as the protoplasts obtained were amenable to cell wall regeneration and cell division. Plantlets were regenerated from the callus developed from isolated protoplast.

**Keywords:** Protoplasts; *Oroxylum indicum* (L.) Vent.; Enzymes, Totipotency, Callus, Plantlets

## Introduction

The development of protoplast systems has increased the versatility of plans for use in both biochemical and genetic research. They have become indispensable tools in genetic engineering and crop breeding of all the possible starting points for plant genetic manipulation, only protoplasts offer the opportunity to take advantage of all the technologies now available. Studies on protoplast isolation conditions have identified various parameters, including enzyme combination, the choice of the explant and its physiological state within a range of plant species [1].

*Oroxylum indicum* (family- Bignoniaceae) also known as 'Sonapatha' is an important herb in Ayurvedic medicine and indigenous medical system for over thousands of years [2]. It is considered as endangered due to over exploitation. *Oroxylum indicum* has been used as a single drug or as a component of certain poly-herbal drug preparations in Indian system of medicine i.e. Ayurveda. It is an active ingredient of well-known Ayurvedic formulations like Chyavanprash, Dashmularistha [3]. Protoplast isolation and

regeneration from *Oroxylum* may open new vistas in the area of biotechnological experimentation. Methods of protoplast isolation with too many steps involved, often result in the introduction of cell contamination at some stage or the other. Here, we present a simple method in which different incubation period of time and different combinations of enzymes (cellulase, pectinase and hemicellulose) that have functioned synergistically to release protoplasts with relative ease in *Oroxylum indicum* (L.) Vent. The isolated protoplast was further subjected to callus formation and plant regeneration.

## Material and Methods

### Source tissue

Tissue for protoplast isolation consisted of fully expanded leaves excised from greenhouse-nature grown plant leaves of *Oroxylum indicum* (L.) Vent.

### Explant preparation prior to enzyme exposure

Leaves of field-grown plants were thoroughly washed in running

water for about 10 min, surface sterilized with 0.1 %  $\text{HgCl}_2$ . Surface decontaminated leaves were chopped into 2-3 mm strips. All tissues were weighed in sterilized petriplates for fresh weight determination before they were subjected to enzyme digestion.

### Protoplast isolation, purification and culture

The protoplast isolation solution consisted of Cell Protoplast Washing (CPW) media (Table 1) was prepared with 13M (Mannitol) and 13S (Sucrose). The quantity and the ratios of enzymes required for protoplast release were determined. Different concentrations (0.1%, 0.5% and 1%) of digesting enzymes cellulase, pectinase and hemicellulase (1%) were prepared with single enzyme or in combination in CPW medium consisted with 13 M (Mannitol) and filter sterilized. Conditions of temperature and incubation time were optimized with these enzymes. To identify factors that might influence the efficiency in terms of protoplast release, rapidity and viability, incubation of leaf tissue was carried out at different temperatures.

### Procedure for protoplast release

Surface sterilized leaves of *O. indicum* were peeled and soaked in 13M CPW for 1 hr in dark at  $25 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ . Leaf tissues transferred to 10 ml of filter sterilized enzyme solutions (in 13S CPW) and incubated in dark for different time intervals. To determine the time required for complete release of protoplasts at incubation temperatures  $25 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ , aliquots were microscopically examined at different time intervals i.e. 2 h, 4 h, 6 h, 8 h. Enzyme solution replaced with 13S CPW solutions. Digested leaf pieces were squeezed in 13S CPW solutions without enzymes. The density of protoplast isolated from different enzymatic treatment and incubation time was counted with haemocytometer. Yield of the protoplast was calculated by

$$Y = n \times 10^3 \times X$$

Where-

$n$  = number of protoplasts counted in 5 triple ruled squares.

$X$  = volume of protoplast suspension.

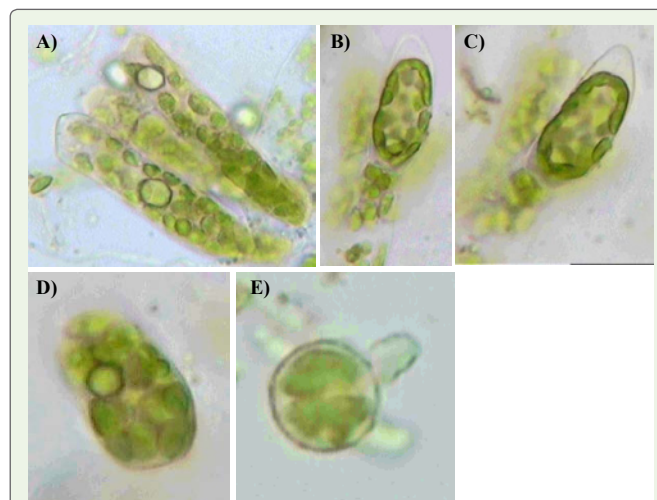
After knowing the yield/fixed volume, the desired density of protoplast in suspension culture was adjusted i.e.,  $1 \times 10^5$  by either dilution (adding more medium) or concentration of existing suspension (by centrifugation and removal of supernatant).

**Protoplast culture:** Aliquots of purified protoplasts were plated in 10 ml of solid MS (Murashige & Skoog 1962) medium

**Table 1:** Composition of Cell Protoplast Washing (CPW) media used for protoplast isolation.

No.	Components	(mg L <sup>-1</sup> )
1	$\text{KNO}_3$	101.0
2	$\text{CaCl}_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$	1480.0
3	$\text{MgSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$	246.0
4	$\text{KH}_2\text{PO}_4$	27.2
5	KI	0.16
6	Mannitol*	7%

\* Was added in g, pH 5.8



**Figure 1:** Simultaneous release of protoplast from the leaf tissue of *Oroxyllum indicum* (L.) Vent.

supplemented with growth regulators (BAP  $1 \text{ mgL}^{-1}$  and  $\text{AgNO}_3$   $2 \text{ mgL}^{-1}$ ) into 60 x 15 mm glass petriplates. As this media combination has been proved appropriate for regeneration of plantlets from both direct and indirect method [4,5]. The plating density was adjusted to obtain  $2 \times 10^4$  protoplasts per ml of medium. The cultures were initially incubated in dark at  $25 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$  temperature for two weeks and then shifted to alternating light (of intensity  $200 \mu\text{Em}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ ) and dark regimes of 14 and 10 h respectively. Samples were tested periodically for viability and wall regeneration.

### Results

The results obtained from the various protoplast isolation experiments performed are summarized in Table 2. With the method described now, tissues of leaves of *O. indicum* explanted were most readily acted upon by the enzymes. A microscopic examination carried out following digestion showed that the protoplast release was complete. All experiments designed and investigated yielded protoplasts. Simultaneous release of protoplast is shown in Figure 1. Green, round protoplast bodies of *O. indicum* were isolated from mesophyll cells of leaf (Figure 2A-2B).

It is clear from the Table 2 that a combination of enzymes has a visible effect on the release of protoplast from leaf tissue. A combination of enzymes hemicellulase 1%, cellulase 0.1% and pectinase 0.1% (in 13S CPW), was capable to yield maximum protoplast yield ( $6 \times 10^5$ ) with maximum protoplast viability (70.51%) for 4 hrs of incubation period. The isolated protoplast grown gradually, when the suspension of protoplast was inoculated on solid MS media containing (BAP  $1 \text{ mgL}^{-1}$  and  $\text{AgNO}_3$   $2 \text{ mgL}^{-1}$ ) in petriplates (Figure 3A). Growth of protoplast is visible in the form of green patches, which was increased gradually after different time intervals (4days, 8 days, 12 days) (Figure 3B). Gradually the isolated protoplast clusters have been developed into soft, live callus, when transferred on same media composition in test tubes. After 45 days fully grown callus was obtained (Figure 4).

### Discussion

Digestion of explants for protoplast release, carried out by another

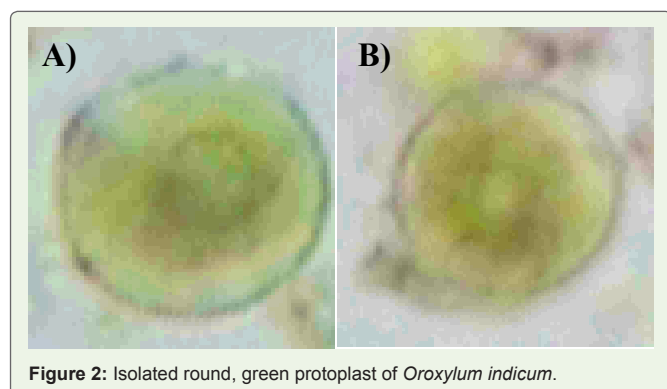


Figure 2: Isolated round, green protoplast of *Oroxylum indicum*.

Table 2: Effect of digesting enzymes & incubation time on yield and viability of protoplast in *Oroxylum indicum* (L.) Vent.

Incubation time (hrs)	Enzymes (%)	Protoplast Yield	Protoplast viability (%)
1	hem 1	2x10 <sup>6</sup>	53.33
	hem1+ cel 0.1	2x10 <sup>5</sup>	55.76
	hem1+ cel 0.5	3x10 <sup>5</sup>	50.21
	hem1+ pec 0.1	3x10 <sup>5</sup>	47.45
	hem1+ pec 0.5	4x10 <sup>5</sup>	63.34
	hem1+ cel 0.1+pec 0.1	4x10 <sup>5</sup>	66.56
	hem1+ cel 0.5+pec0.5	4x10 <sup>5</sup>	60.76
2	hem 1	3x10 <sup>5</sup>	47.46
	hem1+ cel 0.1	3x10 <sup>5</sup>	49.87
	hem1+ cel 0.5	3x10 <sup>5</sup>	55.27
	hem1+ pec 0.1	4x10 <sup>5</sup>	57.48
	hem1+ pec 0.5	5x10 <sup>5</sup>	63.15
	hem1+ cel 0.1+pec 0.1	6x10 <sup>5</sup>	70.51
	hem1+ cel 0.5+pec0.5	6x10 <sup>5</sup>	69.38
3	hem 1	2x10 <sup>5</sup>	48.43
	hem1+ cel 0.1	2x10 <sup>5</sup>	47.72
	hem1+ cel 0.5	3x10 <sup>5</sup>	50.26
	hem1+ pec 0.1	3x10 <sup>5</sup>	48.74
	hem1+ pec 0.5	3x10 <sup>5</sup>	55.44
	hem1+ cel 0.1+pec 0.1	4x10 <sup>5</sup>	57.73
	hem1+ cel 0.5+pec0.5	4x10 <sup>5</sup>	57.61
4	hem 1	2x10 <sup>5</sup>	37.37
	hem1+ cel 0.1	2x10 <sup>5</sup>	39.55
	hem1+ cel 0.5	2x10 <sup>5</sup>	42.73
	hem1+ pec 0.1	2x10 <sup>5</sup>	45.78
	hem1+ pec 0.5	3x10 <sup>5</sup>	52.92
	hem1+ cel 0.1+pec 0.1	3x10 <sup>5</sup>	52.44
	hem1+ cel 0.5+pec0.5	3x10 <sup>5</sup>	56.76

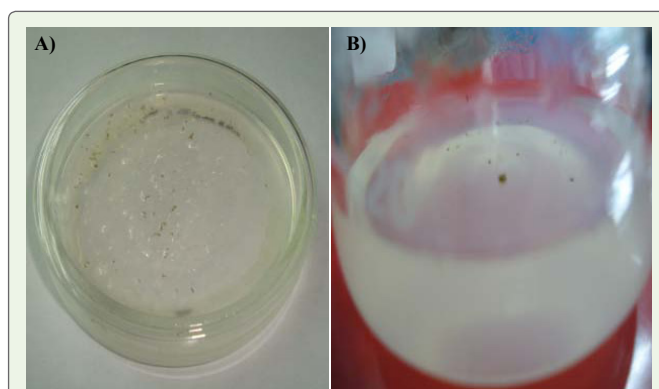


Figure 3: Growing cluster of protoplasts on MS media (BAP 1 mgL<sup>-1</sup> and AgNO<sub>3</sub> 2 mgL<sup>-1</sup>) after 12 & 24 days of inoculation.



Figure 4: Developed callus from protoplast after 45 days.

method [6], required a longer time (8-12 h) on elevated digestion temperature for protoplast release. The yield of protoplasts was also comparatively low. The present protocol provides a simple and an easy-to-handle procedure that ensured satisfactory yields and quick recovery of viable protoplasts from the leaf of 10 years old tree of *O. indicum*. The protocol is simple in that the various pretreatment steps such as preconditioning of donor plants, presoaking of explanted tissue, shaking during incubation, etc., were totally avoided. Protoplast from *Lupinus luteus* L. was also isolated from explants derived from *in vitro* raised young seedlings

Most protoplast isolation protocols generally aim at higher yields, rapid recovery and regenerability of protoplasts so obtained. But all these objectives are seldom accomplished with any one method as there has been no demonstrated whole plant regeneration from protoplasts obtained by rapid preparations [7-9] and similarly, high-yielding protocols are rarely less simple procedures. Using the method described, we have overcome some of these problems. The protocol provides a simple and an easy to handle procedure that ensured satisfactory yields and quick recovery of viable protoplasts of this important tree.

## Conclusion

Freshly obtained protoplasts are viable and morphologically regular. Here, isolation as a crucial step of protoplast utilization was comprehensively optimized for *Oroxylum indicum*, taking into account different concentrations and combinations of enzyme and incubation period, affecting the efficiency of the procedure.

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