

IMPROVED MICROPROPAGATION OF AZAROLE (*CRATAEGUS AZAROLUS* L.)

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Abstract

An improved protocol for efficient micropropagation was developed for azarole (*Crataegus azarolus* L.), a Mediterranean native species valuable for ornamental, fruit and medicinal purposes. Shoot cultures, established from axillary buds of adult tree, were multiplied on a modified LP medium supplied with 0.9, 1.8 or 3.6 μ M BA, or CPPU. The highest axillary shoot multiplication was obtained on modified LP medium supplied with 1.8 μ M BA. Concerning rooting, the highest percentage and number of roots was obtained with 19.6 μ M IBA applied for 5 days or 392 μ M IBA applied for 1 day. The subsequent transferring to a medium solidified with a mix of agar and vermiculite was retained for further improvement of the root system.

Key words: BA, CPPU, *Crataegus azarolus* L., IBA, *in vitro* rooting, shoot proliferation, vermiculite

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