

Alteration of resting period of pollen of five cultivars of apocynaceae by vitamin (vitamin B₂):

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ABSTRACT

Vitamin B₂ altered the resting period of pollen of 6 series and failed in 4 series of Apocynaceae.

Key words : Palynology, Vitamins, Growth regulators

INTRODUCTION

Pollen physiology furnishes the information required for effecting hybridization of plants growing in different geographical and climatic regions with blooms in different seasons.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Pollen of successive flowers (*viz.*, F, F-24, F-48, F-72 series *i.e.* open flowers and the flower buds which require 24, 48, 72 hours to open, respectively) of 5 cultivars of Apocynaceae *e.g.* red-, pink- and white-flowered cultivars of *Nerium odorum* Soland. and pink- and white-flowered cultivars of *Catharanthus roseus* (L.) G. Don. were collected at the stage of the dehiscence of anthers in the open flowers. Germination of pollen grains of successive flowers was studied by standing-drop technique in the optimum concentrations of sucrose as well as in the optimum concentrations of sucrose supplemented with the optimum concentrations of the vitamin (vitamin B₂) (Table 1). The rate of pollen germination of successive flowers was determined by fixing the cultures at one hour intervals. Such preparations were continued for 10 hours. Observations on the germination of pollen were recorded 24 hours after incubation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Potentiality of pollen germinability was recorded in F series of all the 5 cultivars of Apocynaceae studied. It was the pollen of F-24 series of red-flowered cultivar of *Nerium odorum* and both the cultivars of *Catharanthus roseus* were found germinated in the optimum concentrations of sucrose. It should be pointed out that the pollen of F-48 and F-72 series of pink-flowered cultivar of *C. roseus* showed their germination in the optimum concentrations of sucrose. Thus the potentiality of pollen

germinability in Apocynaceae was observed in 10 out of 20 series investigated (Table 1).

Germination of pollen of F-72 series of pink-flowered cultivar of *Catharanthus roseus* *in vitro* culture of sucrose was noted in the present investigation. However, Trisa Palathingal (1990-M.Phil.Thesis) failed to germinate the pollen of F-72 series of pink-flowered cultivar of *C. roseus* in Brewbaker and Kwack's (1963) culture medium. This proves that the culture medium is also having the bearing on the germination of pollen. This also confirms that Brewbaker and Kwack's (1963) culture medium is not ideal for pollen cultures which was also pointed out earlier by the author (1986, 2006).

The delay in pollen germination was interpreted by Saoji and Chitale (1972) as being due to the grains not being mature enough to effect pollination, immediately after being shed from the anther. Further they stated that 4-5 hours are required for the complete maturation of pollen grains. It was Salgare (1983-Ph.D. Thesis) who pointed out for the first time that the pollen require resting period before germination and it was the failure of Saoji and Chitale (1972) who misinterpreted the resting period for pollen maturity. Further he (1983) stated that this resting period differs species to species which is also noted in the present investigation (Table 1). This resting period is altered by different chemicals. Present work as well as the extensive work of Salgare (1983, 86, 2008) made it very clear that Saoji and Chitale's (1972) arguments are superficial and misleading.

Vitamin B₂ altered the resting period of pollen of 6 series and failed in 4 series of Apocynaceae (Table 1). The vitamin extended the resting period of pollen of 2 series.

Sudhakaran (1967) stated that in *Vinca rosea* L. [*Catharanthus roseus* (L.) G. Don.] besides pollen grains which produced single pollen tube, it has also been noticed that tetraploid grains frequently produce more than one pollen tube. Pollen tubes are branched quite frequently.