Ascertaining gamma ray dosage sensitivity of \textit{in vitro} cultures in banana cv. Ney Poovan (\textit{Musa AB})

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Abstract
In a vegetatively propagated and parthenocarpic crop like banana, the mutation breeding method offers considerable scope to create genetic variability for crop improvement. It is necessary to determine the LD\textsubscript{50} dose for optimizing the radiation dosages when gamma rays are used for mutation induction. In the present study, in order to fix the LD\textsubscript{50} dose for explants cultured \textit{in vitro} in cv. Ney Poovan, \textit{in vitro} shoot tips were subjected to five different doses of gamma rays ranged from 5 to 25 Gy. Proliferating multiple shoots were subjected to five different doses of gamma rays ranged from 2 to 10 Gy. The results revealed a linear and significant reduction in the survival percentage, shoot length and number of shoots with increasing levels of gamma irradiation doses in both the category of explants. The probit curve based analysis on mortality of treated explants revealed that LD\textsubscript{50} dose of gamma rays to be 18.77 Gy for cultured shoot tips and 6.97 Gy for proliferating multiple shoots under \textit{in vitro}.

Key words: Gamma irradiation-Shoot tip cultures-Lethal dosage-Banana.

INTRODUCTION
Banana (\textit{Musa} spp., Musaceae) is considered not only as a fruit crop but also as the fourth most economically important food crop after wheat, rice and maize in terms of production and quantity of consumption. Bananas are seriously affected by many fungal, bacterial, viral and nematode pathogens and as well serious pests like stem weevil and corm weevil. Genetic improvement of bananas through conventional breeding for yield improvement or for pest and disease resistance is difficult due to several reasons such as inherent polyploidy nature, heterozygosity, interspecific hybridity, parthenocarpic fruit development and low levels of male and female fertility. Mutation breeding is often resorted to creating genetic variability to screen and select useful variants in bananas (Novak \textit{et al}., 1993; Pillay and Tripathi, 2007). Determination of lethal dose of the mutagen is a prerequisite to optimizing the doses for recovery of a large number of population in mutation breeding (Leitao, 2012).

Among the different mutagenic agents, gamma rays are frequently employed for mutation induction in bananas. Earlier some induced mutation attempts have also resulted in improved varieties. Novak \textit{et al} (1990) used gamma radiation to induce an early flowering mutant of Grand Naine called GN-60Gy. In Malaysia, a further
Among the various banana cultivars grown in India, the cv. Ney Poovan (Musa AB; syn: Elakki Bale) is one of the choicest in south India and fetches premium prices in the market. It is a diploid with both Musa acuminata and Musa balbisiana genomic constitution (AB) and it has poor female fertility and fruits are parthenocarpic but it is highly susceptible to fusarium wilt, nematodes and sigatoka leaf spot. Considering the scope of mutation breeding for improving this variety for yield and identifying variants with resistance to diseases, the present study was taken up to ascertain the lethal dose of gamma irradiation for the two different types of explants (shoot tips and proliferating multiple shoots).

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

Two to three months old sword suckers of banana cv. Ney Poovan were collected from Orchard, Horticultural College and Research Institute, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore. The suckers were detopped to a size of 7 to 8 cm in length having the terminal meristematic bud, along with a small portion of the rhizome. The explants were taken to a laminar airflow chamber and surface sterilized with 0.1% mercuric chloride for 10 minutes followed by rinsing with double distilled water thrice. After sterilization, the explants were inoculated into the MS medium fortified with BAP 5 mg/l + Adenine Sulphate 75 mg/l + Ascorbic acid 75 mg/l + Citric acid 50 mg/l gelled with 0.2% gelrite. The cultures were incubated in a culture room with a light intensity of 2500 to 3000 Lux, 25 ± 2 °C, relative humidity of 60–70% and 16 h / 8 h day / night cycle.

After a week, the shoot tips turned green indicating the regeneration process. At this stage, the shoot tips were subjected to five different doses of gamma radiation (5, 10, 15, 20, 25 Gy). Gamma irradiation was given using Co60 as gamma source (Gamma Chamber 5000, Board of Radiation and Isotope Technology (BRIT), Mumbai, India) at Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research, Kalpakkam, Chennai. Exposure time (minutes/seconds) was calculated based on the dose rate (Gy/s or Gy/min) of the gamma source available in the gamma chamber on the day of carrying out the irradiation, based on dosimetry data.

After irradiation, the shoot tips were sub-cultured on to MS media supplemented with BAP 5 mg/l + Adenine Sulphate 75 mg/l + Ascorbic acid 75 mg/l + Citric acid 50 mg/l gelled with 0.2% gelrite within 24 to 48 hrs. The shoot tips were inoculated in MS medium fortified with BAP 5 mg/l + Adenine Sulphate 75 mg/l + Ascorbic acid 75 mg/l + Citric acid 50 mg/l and gelled with 0.2% gelrite. The cultures were sub-cultured 4 times at every 2 weeks interval to produce multiple shoots. After four subcultures the proliferating multiple shoots were subjected to five different doses of gamma radiation (2, 4, 6, 8, 10 Gy) including control. After irradiation, the proliferating multiple shoots were sub-cultured to MS media supplemented with BAP 5 mg/l + Adenine Sulphate 75 mg/l + Ascorbic acid 75 mg/l + Citric acid 50 mg/l gelled with 0.2% gelrite within 24 hrs.

After one month, the survival percentage was calculated using the formula

\[
\text{Survival percentage (\%) = } \frac{\text{Number of survived explants after gamma irradiation}}{\text{Total number of explants exposed to gamma irradiation}} \times 100
\]

The lethality for gamma radiation was obtained based on the probit analysis using Finney’s table (Finney, 1971). The inverse cumulative distribution function (CDF) or
quantile function is the probit function associated with the standard normal distribution. The corrected mortality was worked out the formula:

\[
\text{Corrected mortality (\%) = \frac{M_{\text{observed}} - M_{\text{control}}}{100 - M_{\text{control}}} \times 100}
\]

Where,
\(M_{\text{observed}}\) – Mortality in treatment,
\(M_{\text{control}}\) – Mortality in control

To determine the lethal dose (LD_{50}), the data were subjected to a standard analysis of variance procedure using SPSS statistical package version 16. The LD_{50} for each explant was calculated by fitting the straight line equation \(y = a + bx\) (simple linear regression model), where \(y\) represents the response variable (mortality percentage), \(x\) represents the independent variable (gamma irradiation dose), while \(a\) and \(b\) represent the slope and constant, respectively. The shoot length of individual plants in each treatment was measured from the point of the base of shoot to the tip of the shoot and mean height was expressed in centimetres at the end of four subcultures i.e. \(M_{V_{4}}\) generation for both the explants. The number of adventitious shoots (microshoots) regenerated from an explant was recorded at subsequent generation for in vitro shoot tip cultures. All the mutated plants after 4 cycles of subculture were transferred to rooting media consist of \(\frac{1}{3}\) MS medium supplemented with 1.0mg/L IBA and 2.0 g/L activated charcoal. The well rooted plants were hardened in media containing pot mixture + cocopeat (1:1) under shade net and transferred to the field.

The experiment was implemented in a completely randomized design (CRD) with three replications and the analysis of treatment differences were computed based on variance estimates and working out critical differences at 5 % probability.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Survival per cent of irradiated material is considered as one of the important criteria to estimate the dose levels for the particular mutagen. Novak (1990) reported that banana diploids were most sensitive to gamma radiations. In the present study, a gradual reduction in the survival rate of in vitro shoot tips and proliferating multiple shoots with an increase in the dose of gamma rays was observed. Among the various irradiated treatments for in vitro cultured shoot tips, the survival per cent ranged from 33.33 per cent in 25 Gy (with 63.89 per cent reduction over control) to 91.67 per cent in 5 Gy (with 5.55 per cent reduction over control) as compared to the highest survival per cent of 97.22 in non-irradiated explants (Table 1). Survival rates for proliferating multiple shoots ranged from 28.33 per cent in 10 Gy (with a 66.67 per cent reduction over control) to 86.67 per cent in 2 Gy (with an 8.33 per cent reduction over control) among the various irradiation levels, while explants that were not irradiated had the highest survival rate of 95.00 per cent. (Table 2). Linear decrease of survival percentage with an increase in doses of gamma rays was observed in the present study similar to earlier mutation experiments reported by many workers (Hase et al., 2002; Mishra et al., 2007; Taheri et al., 2014; Abdulhafiz et al., 2018). At higher doses, the mitotic cell division and cell elongation were also reported to be inhibited due to the decrease or inactivation of auxin resulting in poor establishment and survival (Mahure et al., 2010). It was reported that the interaction of gamma rays with cellular molecules produces free radicals, and these free radicals may form toxic substances such as hydrogen peroxide, which contribute to the destruction of cells and plant death (Dehgahi and Joniyasa, 2017).

Table 1. Effect of gamma irradiation dosage on per cent survival of in vitro cultured shoot tips of Banana cv. Ney Poovan

| Treatment | Dose (Gy) | Per cent survival | Per cent reduction over control |
|-----------|-----------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| T_1       | Control   | 97.22 (83.96)**  | -                             |
| T_2       | 5 Gy      | 91.67 (76.15)*   | 5.55                          |
| T_3       | 10 Gy     | 77.78 (61.97)*   | 19.44                         |
| T_4       | 15 Gy     | 58.33 (49.84)*   | 38.89                         |
| T_5       | 20 Gy     | 47.22 (43.40)*   | 50.00                         |
| T_6       | 25 Gy     | 33.33 (35.16)†  | 63.89                         |
| SEd       |           | 6.52              |                               |
| CD (0.05%)|           | 13.03             |                               |

*The values given in parenthesis are arc sine transformed values

Table 2. Effect of gamma irradiation dosage on per cent survival of proliferating multiple shoots of Banana cv. Ney Poovan

| Treatment | Dose (Gy) | Per cent survival | Per cent reduction over control |
|-----------|-----------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| T_1       | Control   | 95.00 (79.32)**  | -                             |
| T_2       | 2 Gy      | 86.67 (68.66)*   | 8.33                          |
| T_3       | 4 Gy      | 76.67 (61.15)*   | 18.33                         |
| T_4       | 6 Gy      | 51.67 (45.96)*   | 43.33                         |
| T_5       | 8 Gy      | 43.33 (41.16)*   | 51.67                         |
| T_6       | 10 Gy     | 28.33 (32.14)*   | 66.67                         |
| SEd       |           | 3.48              |                               |
| CD (0.05%)|           | 7.33              |                               |

*The values given in parenthesis are arc sine transformed values

LD_{50} for gamma radiation was fixed based on the survival percentage of in vitro shoot tips and proliferating multiple shoots. Probit analysis was carried out based on the mortality rate of the in vitro shoot tips and proliferating multiple shoots after treatment with different doses of gamma rays compared with that in the untreated control.

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In the present study, the LD$_{50}$ value for gamma rays as assessed from the probit curve analysis (Fig. 1 and Fig. 2) was 18.77 Gy for _in vitro_ shoot tips and 6.97 Gy for proliferating multiple shoots, respectively. According to Sparrow _et al._ (1968), radio sensitivity varies between plant species and depends on nuclear volume, number of chromosomes and ploidy level. Based on the probit curve analysis, 50 per cent mortality was observed at 15-20 Gy for shoot tips and 6-8 Gy in case of proliferating multiple shoots for the diploid banana cv. Ney Poovan (AB) in the present study. The current findings are close to the lethal dose of 10-20 Gy suggested by Roux (2004) for diploid cultivars Calcutta 4 (AA) and Tani (BB). (Novak _et al._, 1990). It was indicated that, lower dose than the LD$_{50}$ favors higher plant recovery after gamma irradiation, while higher doses increase the probability of inducing too many mutations which could mostly have a negative impact (Mishra _et al._, 2007). LD$_{50}$ dose is the optimum dose for mutagenizing of mutagens with minimum injury and maximum viable mutants (Veni _et al._, 2017).

### Table 3. Probit analysis for gamma irradiation on survival of shoot tips of banana cv. Ney Poovan

| Treatment | Dose (Gy) | Log$_{10}$ of doses | Observed mortality (%) | Corrected mortality (%) | Probit units |
|-----------|-----------|---------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| T$_1$     | Control   | 0                   | 3                      | 0                       | 18.77Gy     |
| T$_2$     | 5         | 0.70                | 8                      | 6                       |             |
| T$_3$     | 10        | 1.00                | 22                     | 20                      |             |
| T$_4$     | 15        | 1.18                | 42                     | 40                      |             |
| T$_5$     | 20        | 1.30                | 53                     | 51                      |             |
| T$_6$     | 25        | 1.40                | 67                     | 66                      |             |

### Table 4. Probit analysis for gamma irradiation on survival of proliferating multiple shoots of banana cv. Ney Poovan

| Treatment | Dose (Gy) | Log$_{10}$ of doses | Observed mortality (%) | Corrected mortality (%) | Probit units |
|-----------|-----------|---------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| T$_1$     | Control   | 0                   | 5                      | 0                       | 6.97 Gy     |
| T$_2$     | 2         | 0.30                | 13                     | 9                       |             |
| T$_3$     | 4         | 0.60                | 23                     | 19                      |             |
| T$_4$     | 6         | 0.78                | 48                     | 46                      |             |
| T$_5$     | 8         | 0.90                | 57                     | 54                      |             |
| T$_6$     | 10        | 1.00                | 72                     | 70                      |             |

![Fig. 1. Probit curve for gamma irradiation based on corrected mortality rates of _in vitro_ cultured shoot tips of Banana cv. Ney Poovan](image-url)
The number of shoots formed per explant decreased with an increase in different doses of gamma irradiation (Table 5, Plate 1 & 2). Among the treatments, 5 Gy (T₂) recorded a significant and higher number of shoots (2.00, 1.60, 1.40 and 1.20) at M₁V₁, M₁V₂, M₁V₃ and M₁V₄ generation, respectively followed by treatment T₃ (10 Gy) recording (1.73, 1.40, 1.13 and 1.00) number of shoots at M₁V₁, M₁V₂, M₁V₃ and M₁V₄ generation, respectively. The non-irradiated in vitro shoot tips recorded the higher number of shoots per explant (2.20, 2.60, 2.67, and 2.87) at M₁V₁, M₁V₂, M₁V₃ and M₁V₄ generation, respectively as compared to gamma ray treated explants. In many vegetatively propagated crops, the limiting effects of a higher dose of gamma radiation on shoot growth and development have been documented (Broertjes and Van Harten, 1988). The pronounced effect of radiation in shoot multiplication can be attributed to either cellular disturbances causing imbalances in hormonal balance as reported in earlier studies in red pepper (Kim et al., 2004) or possibly a high degree of apical dominance in certain shoots that resist multiplication of in vitro shoots Kulkarni et al. (2007). Similar results were reported by Qamar et al. (2016) and Abdulhafiz et al. (2018).

The shoot length of in vitro shoot tip cultures was significantly influenced by different doses of gamma irradiations (Table 6). Among the treatments, 5 Gy (T₂) recorded significant and the highest shoot length of 2.00±0.00 at M₁V₁, 1.60±0.12 at M₁V₂, 1.40±0.12 at M₁V₃, and 1.20±0.00 at M₁V₄ generation, respectively. The non-irradiated in vitro shoot tips recorded the highest shoot length of 2.20±0.00 at M₁V₁, 2.60±0.12 at M₁V₂, 2.67±0.18 at M₁V₃, and 2.87±0.07 at M₁V₄ generation, respectively as compared to gamma ray treated explants.

Table 5. Effect of gamma irradiation doses on the number of shoots from shoot tip culture grown in vitro of Banana cv. Ney Poovan

| Treatment | M₁V₁       | M₁V₂       | M₁V₃       | M₁V₄       |
|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Control   | 2.20±0.00a | 2.60±0.12a | 2.67±0.18a | 2.87±0.07a |
| 5 Gy      | 2.00±0.00a | 1.60±0.12a | 1.40±0.12a | 1.20±0.00a |
| 10 Gy     | 1.73±0.07c | 1.40±0.00bc| 1.13±0.07b | 1.00±0.00bc|
| 15 Gy     | 1.53±0.13c | 1.27±0.07c | 1.07±0.07b | 0.93±0.07c |
| 20 Gy     | 1.13±0.07c | 0.73±0.07c | 0.40±0.00c | 0.27±0.13c |
| 25 Gy     | 1.07±0.07c | 0.33±0.07c | 0.13±0.13c | 0.07±0.07c |
| SEd       | 0.10       | 0.12       | 0.15       | 0.10       |
| CD (0.05%)| 0.22       | 0.25       | 0.34       | 0.22       |
Plate 1. Effect of Gamma irradiation on \textit{in vitro} cultured shoot tips of banana cv. Ney Poovan at M$_1$V$_4$ generation

Plate 2. Effect of Gamma irradiation on proliferating multiple shoots of banana cv. Ney Poovan at M$_1$V$_4$ generation
6.00 cm (with a decrease of 7.12% over control) at the end of M$_V$$_2$ generation followed by treatment T$_6$ (10 Gy) recording 5.49 cm. The lowest shoot length (4.27 cm) (with a decrease of 33.85% over control) was recorded in treatment T$_5$ (25 Gy). The non-irradiated in vitro shoot tips recorded the highest shoot length (6.46 cm).

With respect to proliferating multiple shoots, 2 Gy (T$_2$) recorded a significant and the highest shoot length of 6.91 cm (with 9.04% increase over control) at the end of M$_V$$_2$ generation followed by treatment T$_4$ (4 Gy) recorded 6.78 cm. The lowest shoot length of proliferating multiple shoots was recorded in treatment T$_4$ (10 Gy – 2.04 cm) (with 67.82% in decrease over control) (Table 7). The non-irradiated proliferating multiple shoots recorded a mean shoot length of 6.49 cm. Several researchers have also observed inhibitory effects of high doses of gamma irradiation on shoot development, suggesting that the inhibition may be due to alteration in physio-biochemical processes related to the action of gibberellic acid, which suppress the plant cell activity leading to biochemical processes related to the action of gibberellic acid, which suppress the plant cell activity leading to inhibition/reduced mitotic cell division and cell elongation affecting the growth habit at a higher dose thereby killing or damaging meristematic cells (Datta and Banerjee 1995; Fereolt et al. 1996; Jain 2010 and Hasbullah et al., 2012).

### Table 6. Effect of gamma irradiation doses on shoot length of in vitro shoot tip cultures of banana cv. Ney Poovan

| Treatment | Dose (Gy) | Shoot length (cm) | Per cent decrease over control |
|-----------|-----------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| T$_1$    | Control  | 6.46±0.04$^a$    | -                             |
| T$_2$    | 5 Gy     | 6.00±0.03$^a$    | 7.12                          |
| T$_3$    | 10 Gy    | 5.49±0.04$^a$    | 14.96                         |
| T$_4$    | 15 Gy    | 5.08±0.01$^a$    | 21.36                         |
| T$_5$    | 20 Gy    | 4.60±0.07$^a$    | 28.79                         |
| T$_6$    | 25 Gy    | 4.27±0.06$^a$    | 33.85                         |
| SEd      |           | 0.07              |                               |
| CD (0.05%) |          | 0.15              |                               |

### Table 7. Effect of gamma irradiation doses on shoot length of proliferating multiple shoots cultures in banana cv. Ney Poovan

| Treatment | Dose (Gy) | Shoot length (cm) | Per cent difference over control |
|-----------|-----------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| T$_1$    | Control  | 6.34±0.05$^b$    | -                               |
| T$_2$    | 2 Gy     | 6.91±0.02$^a$    | 9.04                            |
| T$_3$    | 4 Gy     | 6.78±0.05$^b$    | 6.94                            |
| T$_4$    | 6 Gy     | 5.68±0.14$^{1a}$ | -10.41                          |
| T$_5$    | 8 Gy     | 3.14±0.03$^b$    | -50.47                          |
| T$_6$    | 10 Gy    | 2.04±0.02$^b$    | -67.82                          |
| SEd      |           | 0.05              |                                 |
| CD (0.05%) |          | 0.12              |                                 |

The study taken up on banana cv. Ney Poovan indicated that the lethal dose of gamma radiation or in vitro shoot tip cultures was 18.77 Gy and for proliferating multiple shoots was 6.97 Gy. Lower doses of gamma radiation had a positive impact on the growth of in vitro plants, whereas higher doses had an adverse impact on the growth, leading to a higher mortality rate and reduction in growth.

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