**Abstract:** *Linnaea borealis* L. (Twinflower) — a dwarf shrub in the Linnaeae tribe of Caprifoliaceae family — is distributed across the Northern Hemisphere. By means of this study, a reliable protocol for efficient micropropagation of uniform *L. borealis* L. var. *borealis* plantlets has been provided for the first time; callus culture was also established. Different initial explants, types of cultures, media systems, and plant growth regulators in Murashige and Skoog (MS) media were tested. Agitated shoot cultures in the liquid media turned out to be the best system for the production of sustainable plant biomass. After stabilization of the callus lines, the highest growth index (c.a. 526%) was gained for callus maintained on MS enriched with picloram. TLC and UHPLC-HESI-HRMS analysis confirmed the presence of phenolic acids and flavonoids, and for the first time, the presence of iridoids and triterpenoid saponins in this species. Multiplication of *L. borealis* shoot culture provides renewable raw material, allowing for the assessment of the phytochemical profile, and, in the future, for the quantitative analyses and the studies of the biological activity of extracts, fractions, or isolated compounds. This is the first report on in vitro cultures of traditionally used *L. borealis* rare taxon and its biosynthetic potential.

**Keywords:** twinflower; micropropagation; callus; triterpenoid saponins; iridoids; bioactive secondary metabolites

1. Introduction

*Linnaea borealis* L. (Twinflower), a creeping dwarf shrub, was Linnaeus’s favorite plant and became his symbol. This taxon was formerly assigned to the Caprifoliaceae family; however, it was transferred to the family of Linnaeaceae [1,2]. A more recent classification has ascribed twinflower to the Linnaeae tribe of Caprifoliaceae s.l. [3]. There are the three subspecies recognized within *L. borealis*, which morphologically differ from each other, namely *L. borealis* var. *borealis* in Eurasia, *L. borealis* var. *Americana*, and *L. borealis* var. *longiflora*—both in North America [3,4]. Twinflower has circumboreal distribution, across the Northern Hemisphere, occurring from Scotland and northern Europe through Russia to Siberia, northern Asia to Kamchatka and Japan, northern China and Mongolia, and from Alaska and Canada to Greenland. The main distribution of twinflower in...
Europe is in the Nordic countries [1,2]. In some areas, the plant holds the ecological value for conservation [5–7]. In Poland, as a relic of the Late Glacial period, it reaches the southern extent of its range [8,9]. *L. borealis* is a small creeping evergreen perennial plant with the nature of a dwarf shrub, growing mainly in open pine woodlands [7]. Several factors make natural regeneration of *L. borealis* difficult. Twinflower is clonal self-incompatible and requires cross-pollination to produce viable seeds. Fructification is rare due to long distances between clonal patches. Flowers on different plants are too far apart to be cross-pollinated by insects. As a consequence, twinflower is rarely propagated generatively—seeds are often not produced or germination does not occur. Moreover, the sexual method does not guarantee obtaining uniform, true-to-type plants. *L. borealis* plants often intensively spread in forest stands by above-ground runners known as stolons, which consist of two types of stems: flowering and assimilation shoots. Stolons also produce branches, forming large clonal patches consisting of groups of plants, which are genetically identical. Greenhouse propagation via stem cuttings has been used for horticultural production; however, propagation efforts are often unsatisfactory due to the frequent failure of forming roots or root rot. Attractive flowers make twinflower a suitable commercially-used ground cover plant. Due to the presence of valuable secondary metabolites, this taxon can be interesting for the pharmaceutical and cosmetic industries. Micropropagation may be a tool adopted to help propagation of the valuable species [3,7,9,10].

To our knowledge, the chemical profile of the European subspecies of *Linnaea borealis* var. *borealis* has not been studied so far, while the chemical composition of the American subspecies of *L. borealis* was briefly described in a doctoral dissertation at the University of Colombia [11]. Until recently, little has been known about the chemical constituents. The following flavonoids were detected in the ethanol extracts from leaves: glycosides of quercetin (quercetin 3-O-rhamnoglucoside, quercetin 3-O-glucoside) and kaempferol (kaempferol 3-O-glucoside), as well as apigenin and luteolin derivatives (apigenin 7-O-glucoside, apigenin 7-O-rhamnoglucoside and luteolin 7-O-glucoside). Among phenolic acids, Glennie [11] identified several compounds, namely p-coumaric acid (4-hydroxycinnamic), p-hydroxybenzoic acid, caffeic acid (3,4-dihydroxycinnamic), ferulic acid (3-methoxy-4-hydroxycinnamic), protocatechuic acid (3,4-dihydroxybenzoic), vanillic acid (3-methoxy-4-hydroxybenzoic), phloretic acid (4-hydroxydihydrocinnamic), and four chlorogenic acid isomers (3-cafeoylquinic, 4-cafeoylquinic, 3,4-cafeoylquinic, 4,5-cafeoylquinic). The floral scent composition of *L. borealis* comprises about 26 chemical compounds, identified as monoterpenes, benzoids and phenylpropanoids, aliphatics, sesquiterpenes, and irregular terpenes [12]. Furthermore, the floral scent has been described as almond-like or anise-like and consists of four benzoid compounds, i.e., 1,4-dimethoxybenzene, anisaldehyde, 2-phenylethanol, and benzaldehyde, and also one nitrogen-containing compound—nicotinaldehyde [5,11].

In Norwegian traditional medicine, *L. borealis* has a long tradition as a cure for shingles (*Herpes zoster*). In the past, this species was also used in the European countries to treat skin diseases and other kinds of rash, eczema, measles, hives, ringworm, scabies, water blisters, rheumatism, and finger infections. Twinflower was also applied as a medicinal and food plant by indigenous American people [13]. In fact, the studies have already been compiled in the ethnobotanical elaboration [2,14].

The availability of plant material may be limited due to the specificity of climatic and habitat requirements, progressive degradation of the natural environment, as well as slow plant growth and sometimes several-year-long formation of organs constituting valuable raw material. The availability of the quantity of plants growing in the wild is also significantly limited due to their strict or partial species protection. Increasing pollution and unfavorable changes in the natural environment result in the depletion of plant resources, and collection of raw materials from such areas becomes problematic. An alternative solution to these limitations may be the possibility of chemical research and production of desired metabolites in plant biomass obtained with the use of the biotechnological methods. Plant in vitro cultures can provide the sufficient quantity of high quality uniform biomass
under controlled conditions and affect secondary metabolites production in the medicinal species. Furthermore, in vitro cultures allow to avoid problems related to the collection, transport, and storage of plant material, which is available all year round. Moreover, micropropagation provides renewable raw plant material, allowing for the assessment of the phytochemical profile, quantitative analyses, and studying the biological activity of extracts, fractions, or isolated compounds [15–17].

The aim of the current work was to develop an efficient protocol of Linnaea borealis L. var. borealis micropropagation by the development of axillary buds and multi-shoot culture, as well as induction of callus from various plant explants and optimization of growth of callus on the different media. The study also aimed at the multiplication of in vitro plants for the preliminary phytochemical assessment for comparison with intact plants. Additionally, the study of propagation was undertaken not only for twinflower conservation, but also for the further ornamental and pharmacological application. So far, there has been no report available on L. borealis var. borealis in vitro cultures and detailed phytochemical screening.

2. Results

In present study, the efficient micropropagation protocol of Linnaea borealis var. borealis was established using the method of stimulation of new buds from pre-existing meristems (nodal segments or shoot tips with apical meristems). The influence of the type of the plant explant, hormonal supplementation in the medium, and culture system (solid or liquid) on shoot multiplication were estimated (Tables 1–4). In the next step, the effect of the auxin type/combined auxins on L. borealis shoot rooting was evaluated (Table 5). As the artificial conditions of in vitro systems may trigger the so-called somaclonal variation in the propagated plantlets, therefore it was necessary to monitor the genetic fidelity of the clones (Table 6).

2.1. Shoot Multiplication

The presence of BAP (first-generation synthetic cytokinin) in the multiplication medium had a particularly positive impact on the development of new shoots from explants in the form of multi-shoots. In turn, the addition of kinetin (also artificial cytokinin) to the multiplication medium was important for the development of new shoots from the nodal fragments of stems. Double shoots, shoot segments with one node, and single shoots with the apical meristem were the best explants for multiplication of shoot biomass. The media with the high cytokinin content were crucial for the development of new shoots. The highest number of new shoots (7.63 ± 0.73) was obtained from double shoots on the solid MS medium supplemented with BAP (2.0 mg/L), IAA (0.1 mg/L) and GA3 (1.0 mg/L), as well as from stem fragments with nodes cultured on the solid MS medium supplemented with BAP (1.5 mg/L), IAA (0.1 mg/L) and GA3 (1.0 mg/L), and MS with Kin (2.0 mg/L), IAA (0.1 mg/L), and GA3 (1.0 mg/L)—6.13 ± 0.64. The media enriched with GA3 were used for elongation of shoots (Table 1).

Table 1. The influence of the type of the plant explant and hormonal supplementation on Linnaea borealis var. borealis shoot multiplication on the solid MS medium.

| MS Medium Supplementation | Explants (Mean No. of New Shoots ± SE) |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Cytokinin (mg/L) | Auxin (mg/L) | Gibberellin (mg/L) | Double Shoots | Single Shoot with Apical Meristem | Shoot Segments with One Node |
|---------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| BAP 1.0       | IAA 0.1      | GA3 1.0           | 2.46 ± 0.22cd | 2.00 ± 0.17c                  | 5.46 ± 0.31ab               |
| BAP 0.5       | IAA 0.1      | GA3 1.0           | 4.15 ± 0.28bc | 3.00 ± 0.19b                  | 5.67 ± 0.36ab               |
| BAP 1.0       | IAA 0.1      | GA3 1.0           | 3.19 ± 0.50cd | 2.75 ± 0.28b                  | 5.25 ± 0.33abc              |
| BAP 1.5       | IAA 0.1      | GA3 1.0           | 4.95 ± 1.49b  | 2.58 ± 0.15bc                 | 3.92 ± 0.36d                |
| BAP 1.5       | IAA 0.1      | GA3 1.0           | 5.12 ± 0.71b  | 3.25 ± 0.25b                  | 6.13 ± 0.64a                |
Table 1. Cont.

| MS Medium Supplementation | Explants (Mean No. of New Shoots ± SE) |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Cytokinin (mg/L)          | Auxin (mg/L) | Gibberellin (mg/L) | Double Shoots | Single Shoot with Apical Meristem | Shoot Segments with One Node |
| BAP 2.0                   | IAA 0.1      | GA\textsubscript{3} 1.0 | 7.63 ± 0.73 \textsuperscript{a} | 4.10 ± 0.32 \textsuperscript{a} | 4.50 ± 0.61 \textsuperscript{bcd} |
| Kin 1.0                   | IAA 0.1      | GA\textsubscript{3} 1.0 | 2.16 ± 0.22 \textsuperscript{c} | 2.58 ± 0.19 \textsuperscript{bc} | 4.07 ± 0.40 \textsuperscript{ed} |
| Kin 2.0                   | IAA 0.1      | GA\textsubscript{3} 1.0 | 2.39 ± 0.20 \textsuperscript{c} | 2.67 ± 0.19 \textsuperscript{bc} | 6.33 ± 0.43 \textsuperscript{a} |

BAP: \textsuperscript{N}\textsuperscript{-}benzylaminopurine; GA\textsubscript{3}: indole-3-acetic acid; IAA: indole-3-acetic acid; MS: Murashige and Skoog medium; Mean values with the same letter are not significantly different at \( p = 0.05 \) using Duncan’s Multiple Range test.

Micro-shoots were morphologically proper, not vitreous, and did not form callus at the base; leaves exhibited a vivid green color (Figure 1).

In the subsequent experiment, explants with a different number of shoots (single, or a cluster of double or triple shoots) were placed on the selected solid medium—BAP (1.0 mg/L), IAA (0.1 mg/L) and GA\textsubscript{3} (1.0 mg/L). A double shoot indicated to be the best explant for multiplication. The highest number of new micro-shoots per explant was 10.89 ± 0.55 and 5.37 ± 0.26 per shoot (Figure 1, Table 2).
Table 2. The influence of the type of the plant explant (single, double, triple shoots) on *Linnaea borealis* var. *borealis* shoot multiplication on the solid MS medium with BAP 1.0 mg/L + IAA 0.1 mg/L + GA$_3$ 1.0 mg/L.

| Explants      | Number of New Shoots per Explant ± SE | Number of New Shoots per One Shoot ± SE |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| 1/single shoot| 5.63 ± 0.63$^b$                       | 5.63 ± 0.63$^b$                        |
| 2/double shoot| 10.89 ± 0.55$^a$                      | 5.37 ± 0.26 $^a$                       |
| 3/triple shoot| 10.79 ± 0.53 $^a$                      | 3.51 ± 0.20 $^b$                       |

BAP N$^6$-benzylaminopurine; GA$_3$ indole-3-acetic acid; IAA indole-3-acetic acid; MS Murashige and Skoog medium; Mean values with the same letter are not significantly different at $p = 0.05$ using Duncan’s Multiple Range test.

Admittedly, double and triple shoots grown in the liquid medium proved to be the best material for multiplication of new shoots (their number increased up to about 40); double and single shoots increased the most in length (by about 150%). Therefore, the results of the study have suggested that double shoots are the best explants for liquid culture to obtain a large number of shoots that grow significantly in length, as they generally contribute to the greatest increase in plant biomass. The authors believe that a large number of new shoots is associated with rinsing the whole explant in the liquid medium, which may affect initiation and the development of buds forming new lateral shoots. Well-expanded leaves of cultured shoots had correct morphology and did not show any changes (Figure 1, Table 3).

Table 3. The influence of the type of the plant explant on *Linnaea borealis* var. *borealis* shoot multiplication in the liquid MS medium with BAP 1.0 mg/L + IAA mg/L + GA$_3$ 1.0 mg/L.

| Explants      | Number of New Shoots per Explant ± SE | Number of New Shoots per One Shoot ± SE | Shoots Length Increase (%) LI ± SE |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1/single shoot| 17.46 ± 0.91$^b$                       | 17.46 ± 0.91$^b$                       | 154.77 ± 15.16 $^a$               |
| 2/double shoot| 48.80 ± 3.67$^a$                       | 24.11 ± 1.77$^a$                       | 150.36 ± 19.33 $^a$               |
| 3/triple shoot| 50.30 ± 5.25$^a$                       | 15.72 ± 1.75$^b$                       | 138.14 ± 8.25$^b$                 |

BAP N$^6$-benzylaminopurine; GA$_3$ indole-3-acetic acid; IAA indole-3-acetic acid; MS Murashige and Skoog medium; LI length index. Mean values with the same letter are not significantly different at $p = 0.05$ using Duncan’s Multiple Range test.

Summarizing the results of a series of experiments, the introduction of *L. borealis* L. var. *borealis* into in vitro cultures enabled rapid clonal multiplication. Homogeneous plant material was obtained by stimulating the development of axillary buds on the MS medium variant wit BAP 1.0 mg/L + IAA 0.1 mg/L + GA$_3$ 1.0 mg/L. The most efficient multiplied shoot biomass was obtained in agitated liquid culture (Table 4).

Table 4. The comparative statement on *Linnaea borealis* var. *borealis* shoot multiplication in different systems with the application of MS medium with BAP 1.0 mg/L + IAA 0.1 mg/L + GA$_3$ 1.0 mg/L.

| In Vitro System | Explants      | Number of New Shoots per Explant ± SE | Number of New Shoots per One Shoot ± SE |
|-----------------|---------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Solid medium    | 1/single shoot| 5.63 ± 0.63$^d$                       | 5.63 ± 0.63$^c$                        |
| Liquid medium   | 1/single shoot| 17.46 ± 0.91$^b$                       | 17.46 ± 0.91$^b$                       |
| Solid medium    | 2/double shoot| 10.89 ± 0.55$^c$                       | 5.37 ± 0.26 $^c$                       |
| Liquid medium   | 2/double shoot| 48.80 ± 3.67$^a$                       | 24.11 ± 1.77$^a$                       |
| Solid medium    | 3/triple shoot| 10.79 ± 0.53$^c$                       | 3.51 ± 0.20 $^d$                       |
| Liquid medium   | 3/triple shoot| 50.30 ± 5.25$^a$                       | 15.72 ± 1.75$^b$                       |

BAP N$^6$-benzylaminopurine; GA$_3$ indole-3-acetic acid; IAA indole-3-acetic acid; MS Murashige and Skoog medium; Mean values with the same letter are not significantly different at $p = 0.05$ using Duncan’s Multiple Range test.
2.2. Shoot Rooting

It was extremely difficult to produce rootlets in the experiment, as twinflower is a dwarf shrub. The first roots were observed after two weeks of culture; after another four weeks, roots were well developed. In vitro-multiplied shoots formed vigorous roots of a white color with frequency of about 30–100%, depending on the applied medium. The highest percentage of root induction of in vitro multiplied shoots was obtained for shoots grown on the solid MS medium with higher concentrations of IBA alone or in combination with IAA. Additionally, these media were advantageous for the number of emerging roots, most of which, about 19 roots per shoot, appeared on the following media: MS + IBA 4.0 mg/L and MS + IBA 2.0 mg/L + IAA 1.0 mg/L. The least preferred media for rooting of shoots were those that lacked IBA and those in which IAA was present at a low concentration. Micro-shoots underwent direct root formation, without a callus phase on all the tested media (Figure 1, Table 5).

Table 5. The influence of auxins on Linnaea borealis var. borealis shoot rooting.

| Medium | IAA (mg/L) | IBA (mg/L) | Induction (%) | Root Number ± SE | Root Length (cm) ± SE |
|--------|------------|------------|---------------|------------------|----------------------|
| 1/4 MS | -          | -          | 50            | 4.57 ± 0.91 de   | 2.01 ± 0.11 b        |
| 1/2 MS | -          | -          | 50            | 5.14 ± 1.03 de   | 1.56 ± 0.08 cde      |
| MS     | -          | -          | 30.77         | 1.50 ± 0.50 e    | 1.32 ± 0.26 f,g      |
| MS     | 1.0        | -          | 38.46         | 1.60 ± 0.40 e    | 0.95 ± 0.19 f,th     |
| MS     | 2.0        | -          | 76.92         | 2.50 ± 0.50 e    | 1.96 ± 0.13 bc       |
| MS     | 3.0        | -          | 76.92         | 4.44 ± 0.85 de   | 1.94 ± 0.14 bc       |
| MS     | 4.0        | -          | 33.33         | 3.25 ± 0.63 e    | 1.44 ± 0.21 def      |
| MS     | 2.0        | 5.0        | 94.74         | 17.22 ± 1.91 ab  | 0.99 ± 0.04 th       |
| MS     | 2.0        | 0.5        | 76.92         | 4.60 ± 0.91 de   | 2.45 ± 0.13 a        |
| MS     | 1.0        | 2.0        | 100           | 19.78 ± 2.62 a   | 0.67 ± 0.03 h        |
| MS     | 1.0        | 1.0        | 50            | 4.13 ± 0.83 de   | 1.76 ± 0.10 bc,d     |
| MS     | 1.0        | 0.5        | 50            | 2.00 ± 0.82 e    | 1.68 ± 0.25 bc,de    |
| MS     | 0.5        | 2.0        | 100           | 16.00 ± 2.97 ab  | 0.91 ± 0.06 th       |
| MS     | -          | 1.0        | 100           | 10.00 ± 1.15 cd  | 0.97 ± 0.05 f,g      |
| MS     | -          | 2.0        | 100           | 16.08 ± 2.25 ab  | 1.17 ± 0.05 f,g      |
| MS     | -          | 3.0        | 100           | 13.36 ± 1.36 bc  | 1.91 ± 0.07 bc       |
| MS     | -          | 4.0        | 100           | 19.30 ± 1.86 a   | 1.00 ± 0.04 th       |

IAA indole-3-acetic acid; IBA indole-3-butyric acid; MS Murashige and Skoog medium; Mean values with the same letter are not significantly different at p = 0.05 using Duncan’s Multiple Range test.

2.3. Genome Size Estimation

Micropropagation of L. borealis var. borealis was performed through meristematic tissues; however, the genome size estimation was necessary to ensure that plant material is homogeneous. The 2C DNA content of leaves in control seedlings was 1.778 pg and it was similar in multiplied shoots (Table 6; Figure 2). No statistical differences were detected.

Table 6. The nuclear DNA content in leaves of Linnaea borealis var. borealis obtained from seedlings and micropropagated plantlets.

| Plant Material          | No. of Samples | DNA Content (pg/2C ± SE) |
|-------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Seedling (Control)      | 3              | 1.778 ± 0.011 ns         |
| Plantlets (S1–S2)       | 12             | 1.783 ± 0.021           |

Control—leaves from seedling; S1, S2, S3, S4—leaves from shoots growing on the solid MS medium with BAP 1.0 mg/L, IAA 0.1 mg/L and GA3 1.0 mg/L; ns Mean values are not significantly different at p = 0.05 using Student’s t-test.
Figure 2. Histograms of the nuclear DNA content obtained after the flow cytometric analysis of the PI-stained nuclei isolated simultaneously from leaves of *Linnaea borealis* var. *borealis* (peak 1), seedling (A) and a micropropagated plant (B), and *Petunia hybrida* (the internal standard; peak 2).

2.4. Callus Induction and Maintenance

The influence of the type of the plant explant and hormonal supplementation in the solid medium on callus induction and proliferation were estimated (Table 7).

Leaves, internode stems, and roots of *L. borealis* var. *borealis* previously multiplied in vitro were used as explants in the experiment. Callus was observed in all the three types of explants, usually at the point of the organ cut. Formation of callus on leaves lasted from four to eight weeks, while on fragments of stems and roots, it took six to 12 weeks. Callus forming on plant explants was light yellow and milky. It was passaged every five weeks until stabilized (VII, VIII, IX passages). As the observations showed, the mean callus induction from leaves was 39.37%, from stems—37%, and from roots—45.5%. After stabilization of the callus lines, the highest growth index gain was characteristic of callus culture maintained on MS medium enriched with picloram 2.0 mg/L (Figure 3, Table 7).

Figure 3. Leaf-derived callus of *Linnaea borealis* var. *borealis* cultured on MS medium enriched with picloram 2.0 mg/L.
Table 7. The influence of medium supplementation on growth of callus of *Linnaea borealis* var. *borealis* during the next three passages (VII–IX).

| MS Medium Supplementation | Callus Growth Index (%) ± SE | Passage VII | Passage VIII | Passage IX |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| Pic 1.0 mg/L              |                            | 379.67 ± 45.51 ^ab^ | 485.78 ± 21.77 ^a^ | 345.61 ± 21.61 ^b^ |
| Pic 2.0 mg/L              |                            | 408.99 ± 31.24 ^a^ | 468.66 ± 10.64 ^a^ | 525.80 ± 18.46 ^a^ |
| 2,4-D 2.0 mg/L + NAA 0.5 mg/L |                       | 281.40 ± 35.18 ^b^ | 311.56 ± 23.67 ^b^ | 380.83 ± 26.74 ^b^ |

2,4-D 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid; MS Murashige and Skoog medium; NAA 1-naphthaleneacetic acid; Pic (picloram) 4-Amino-3,5,6-trichloropicolinic acid; Mean values with the same letter are not significantly different at \( p = 0.05 \) using Duncan’s Multiple Range test.

2.5. UPLC-HESI-HRMS Phytochemical Screening

UPLC-MS/MS analysis demonstrated in the studied material, namely leafy shoots of intact plants, shoots and roots of micropropagated plantlets, and callus biomass, the diversity of chemical compounds with known pharmacological activity (Figures 4 and S1–S4, Table 8) [18–21].

![Figure 4](image)

**Figure 4.** The UPLC-PDA (254 nm) chromatograms of *Linnaea borealis* var. *borealis* extracts of leafy shoots from natural sites (purple, D); shoot cultures (red, A); roots from micropropagated plantlets (green, B); biomass from callus cultures (blue, C).

The results indicated the presence of the four major groups of secondary metabolites in the studied plant material of *L. borealis* L. var. *borealis*. The presence of iridoid and triterpene compounds, apart from phenolic acids and flavonoids, has been detected for the first time. UPLC-MS/MS analysis in the negative and positive ion mode indicated the presence of 30 phenolic (including benzoates and hydroxycinnamic acid derivatives) and 19 flavonoid compounds. Thirteen iridoid compounds have been detected for the first time in this species. Two organic acids (quinic and pantothenic acid) were annotated in the profile. Additionally, 14 triterpenoid saponins were confirmed with the use of mass spectrometry (Table 8).
**Table 8.** Secondary metabolites identified in plant biomass of *Linnaea borealis* var. *borealis* (leafy shoots from natural sites (NS); shoot cultures (SC); roots from micropropagated plantlets (R); biomass from callus cultures (C)).

| No | rt (min) | [M − H]− | [M + H]+ | Name | Plant Material |
|----|---------|---------|--------|------|---------------|
|    | UPLC-MS | UPLC-PDA | d (ppm) | m/z   | d (ppm) | m/z   | Formula | Fragmentation | m/z   | d (ppm) | m/z   | Formula | Fragmentation | C | R | SC | NC |
| 1  | 2.23    | 1.13    | 191.0550 | −2.74 | C7H11O6− | nd    | nd     | nd     | nd               | nd     | 146.0816, 88.0390, 71.0121 | Quinic acid (A) | + | + | + | + |
| 2  | 4.53    | 3.43    | 218.1028 | 0.49  | C3H17NO5− | 407.0768, 289.0717, 245.0813, 125.0229 | nd     | nd     | nd               | nd     | 409.0899, 287.0527, 127.0391 | Pantothenic acid (A) | + | + | + | + |
| 3  | 3.32    | 2.22    | 577.1349 | 0.50  | C30H25O12− | 407.0768, 289.0717, 245.0813, 125.0229 | 579.1490 | 2.18 | C30H27O12 | 409.0899, 287.0527, 127.0391 | Procyanidin (F) | nd | + | + | + |
| 4  | 3.49    | 2.39    | 577.1348 | 1.50  | C30H25O12− | 407.0768, 289.0717, 245.0813, 125.0229 | 579.1493 | 1.56 | C30H27O12 | 409.0899, 287.0527, 127.0391 | Procyanidin (F) | nd | nd | + | + |
| 5  | 4.23    | 3.13    | 289.0718 | 2.17  | C15H13O6− | 245.0816, 179.0340, 151.0388, 125.0228, 109.0279 | 291.0853 | 5.38 | C15H15O6 | 207.0646, 139.0392, 123.0430 | Catechin (F) | nd | nd | + | + |
| 6  | 4.58    | 3.48    | 609.1462 | 0.50  | C27H29O16− | 447.0927, 285.0402 | 611.1589 | 3.84 | C27H31O16 | 287.0554 | Luteolin-3′,7-di-O-glucoside (F) | + | + | + | + |
| 7  | 4.71    | 3.61    | 577.1344 | 0.60  | C30H25O12− | 407.0768, 289.0717, 245.0813, 125.0229 | 579.1494 | 1.56 | C30H27O12 | 409.0899, 287.0527, 127.0391 | Procyanidin (F) | nd | nd | + | + |
| 8  | 5.76    | 4.66    | 609.1459 | 0.63  | C27H29O16− | 301.0353, 300.0275 | 611.1594 | 2.94 | C27H31O16 | 303.0471 | Quercetin-3-O-rutinoside (F) | nd | + | + | + |
Table 8. Cont.

| No | rt (min) | [M – H]^- | m/z | d (ppm) | Formula | Fragmentation | m/z | d (ppm) | Formula | Fragmentation | Name                        | Plant Material |
|----|---------|------------|-----|---------|---------|--------------|-----|---------|---------|--------------|----------------|-----------------|
|    |         |            |     |         |         |              |     |         |         |              |               | C   | R   | SC | NC |
| 9  | 5.94    | 285.0403,  | 595.1666 | -0.55  | C27H31O15 | nd            |     |         |         |              | Luteolin-7-O-     |                 |
|    |         | 269.0450   |       |         |         | nd + + +     |     |         |         |              | rhamnoglucoside I | (F)             |
| 10 | 6.02    | 301.03519, | 465.1028 | 1.06   | C21H21O12 | 303.0471     |     |         |         |              | Quercetin-3-O-    |                 |
|    |         | 300.02737  |       |         |         | + + +        |     |         |         |              | glucoside         | (F)             |
| 11 | 6.23    | 285.0403,  | 595.1669 | -1.06  | C27H31O15 | 287.0554     |     |         |         |              | Kaempferol-3-O-   |                 |
|    |         | 284.0323   |       |         |         | + + +        |     |         |         |              | rutinoside        | (F)             |
| 12 | 6.25    | 301.03519, | 465.1028 | 1.06   | C21H21O12 | 303.0471     |     |         |         |              | Quercetin-3-O-    |                 |
|    |         | 300.02737  |       |         |         | + + +        |     |         |         |              | galactoside       | (F)             |
| 13 | 6.11    | 285.0404,  | 449.1079 | 1.20   | C21H21O11 | 287.0554     |     |         |         |              | Kaempferol-3-O-   |                 |
|    |         | 284.0328   |       |         |         | + + +        |     |         |         |              | glucoside         | (F)             |
| 14 | 6.34    | 269.0455,  | 565.1566 | -1.57  | C26H26O14 | 433.1159, 271.0610 |     |         |         |              | Apigenin-7-O-     |                 |
|    |         | 133.0274   |       |         |         | + + +        |     |         |         |              | apioglucoside     |                 |
| 15 | 6.72    | 285.0413,  | 449.1079 | 1.20   | C21H21O11 | 287.0554     |     |         |         |              | Luteolin-7-O-     |                 |
|    |         | 133.0381   |       |         |         | + + +        |     |         |         |              | glucoside         | (F)             |
| 16 | 6.71    | 285.0403,  | 595.1669 | -1.01  | C27H31O15 | 287.0554     |     |         |         |              | Luteolin-7-O-     |                 |
|    |         | 269.04623, |       |         |         | + + +        |     |         |         |              | rhamnoglucoside II|                 |
|    |         | 257.04605, |       |         |         |             |     |         |         |              |                 | (F)             |
| No | rt (min) | [M − H]− | [M + H]+ | Name | Plant Material |
|----|---------|---------|---------|------|----------------|
|    |         |         |         |      | UPLC-MS | UPLC-PDA | m/z | d (ppm) | m/z | d (ppm) | C | R | SC | NC |
| 17 | 6.50    | 5.40    | 577.1574 | 0.70  | C27H26O14− | 269.0454 | 579.1696 | 3.15  | C27H31O14 | 271.0609 | nd | + | + | + |
| 18 | 6.80    | 5.70    | 431.0981 | 1.74  | C21H19O10− | 269.0455 | 433.1129 | 1.26  | C21H21O10 | 271.061 | nd | + | + | + |
| 19 | 7.98    | 6.88    | 447.0928 | 1.30  | C21H19O11− | 285.0403 | 449.1078 | 1.20  | C21H21O11 | 287.0554 | nd | nd | + | + |
| 20 | 8.13    | 7.03    | 285.0404 | 3.77  | C15H9O6−   | 241.0508, 217.0504, 175.0383, 151.0023, 133.0281 | 287.0542 | 4.65  | C15H11O6 | 153.0199, 137.0958, 135.0938 | Luteolin (F) | nd | + | + | + |
| 21 | 9.10    | 8.00    | 269.0457 | 4.57  | C15H9O5−   | 151.002 | 271.0922 | 5.35  | C15H11O5 | 153.0175, 119.0488 | Apigenin (F) | nd | + | + | + |
| 22 | 9.26    | 8.16    | 285.0405 | 3.98  | C15H9O6−   | 270.2250, 257.0460, 151.0026 | 287.0543 | 4.02  | C15H11O6 | nd | Kaempferol (F) | nd | nd | + | + |
| 23 | 9.42    | 8.32    | 299.0558 | 0.86  | C16H11O6−  | 284.0325 | 301.0699 | 4.37  | C16H13O6 | nd | Kaempferide (F) | nd | + | + | + |
| 24 | 4.09    | 2.99    | 373.1138 | 2.27  | C16H21O10− | 211.0604, 193.0493, 167.0701, 149.0594, 123.0436 | 375.1276 | 4.07  | C16H23O10 | 213.0742, 195.0644, 177.0546, 167.0704 | Swertiamarin (I) | nd | nd | + | + |
Table 8. Cont.

| No | rt (min) | m/z   | d (ppm) | Formula          | Fragmentation        | m/z   | d (ppm) | Formula          | Fragmentation        | Name                  | Plant Material |
|----|---------|-------|---------|-----------------|----------------------|-------|---------|-----------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 25 | 4.11    | 3.01  | 375.1294| C_{16}H_{23}O_{10}^{-} | 213.0761, 169.0859, 151.0752, 125.0752, 119.0335, 113.0228 | 377.1439 | 2.21   | C_{16}H_{25}O_{10} | 215.0914, 197.0428, 179.0694, 151.0756, 109.0650 | Loganic acid (I) | nd + + + |
| 26 | 4.27    | 3.17  | 375.1294| C_{16}H_{23}O_{10}^{-} | 213.0764, 195.0652, 151.0751 | 377.1433 | 3.83   | C_{16}H_{25}O_{10} | 215.0914, 197.0428, 153.0537, 127.0391, 111.0806 | Epi-loganic acid (I) | nd + + + |
| 27 | 4.21    | 3.11  | 435.1508| C_{18}H_{27}O_{12}^{-} | 227.0918, 191.0550, 127.0385, 101.0227 | 391.1591 | 3.39   | C_{17}H_{27}O_{10} | 229.1074, 211.0972, 179.0709, 151.0395, 109.0650 | Loganin (I) | nd + + + |
| 28 | 4.62    | 3.52  | 373.1138| C_{16}H_{23}O_{10}^{-} | 267.0658, 239.0716, 211.0753, 193.0495, 149.0594 | 375.1279 | 3.35   | C_{16}H_{25}O_{10} | 213.0743, 195.0642, 177.0546, 167.0712, 151.0388, 149.0600, 133.0288, 125.0233, 107.0493 | Geniposidic acid (I) | nd + + + |
Table 8. Cont.

| No | rt (min) | [M − H]− m/z d (ppm) | Formula | Fragmentation | [M + H]⁺ m/z d (ppm) | Formula | Fragmentation | Name | Plant Material |
|----|----------|------------------------|---------|---------------|------------------------|---------|---------------|------|----------------|
|    | UPLC-MS  | UPLC-PDA               |         |               |                         |         |               |      | C   | R   | SC  | NC  |
| 29 | 5.14     | 4.04                   | 403.1246| 1.47          | C₁₇H₂₃O₁₁⁻                | 223.0595, 165.0545, 121.0229 | 427.1203| 3.19          | C₁₇H₂₄O₁₁Na | 265.0668, 255.0840, 233.0429, 195.0270 | Secoxyloganin (I) | + | + | + | + |
| 30 | 5.16     | 4.06                   | 357.1192| 1.80          | C₁₆H₂₁O₉⁻                | 195.06588, 125.02290 | 381.1151| 2.77          | C₁₆H₂₂O₉Na | 255.0829, 219.0623, 185.0492, 149.0203 | Sweroside (I) | nd | + | + | + |
| 31 | 5.47     | 4.37                   | 403.1247| 1.72          | C₁₇H₂₃O₁₁⁻                | nd       | 405.1379| 4.42          | C₁₇H₂₅O₁₁ | 211.0967, 193.0843, 177.0546, 161.0598, 151.0389 | Gardenoside (I) | nd | + | + | + |
| 32 | 5.81     | 4.71                   | 387.1298| 1.80          | C₁₇H₂₃O₁₀⁻                | 225.0759, 193.0496, 181.0494, 155.0336, 123.0433, 113.0228, 101.0228 | 389.1437| 2.76          | C₁₇H₂₅O₁₀ | 209.0801, 177.0543, 165.0547, 151.0386, 107.0493 | Secologanin (I) | nd | + | + | + |
| 33 | 5.97     | 4.87                   | 359.1349| 1.98          | C₁₆H₂₃O₉⁻                | nd       | 361.1484| 4.15          | C₁₆H₂₅O₉ | nd                         | Deoxyloganin acid (I) | nd | + | + | + |
| 34 | 7.15     | 6.05                   | 537.1614| 1.16          | C₂₅H₂₉O₁₃⁻                | 375.1288, 179.0338, 161.0231, 135.0436 | nd      | nd            | nd      | Grandifloroside (I) | + | + | + | + |
Table 8. Cont.

| No | rt (min) | UPLC-MS | UPLC-PDA | [M − H]⁻ | m/z | d (ppm) | Formula | Fragmentation | m/z | d (ppm) | Formula | Fragmentation | Name | Plant Material |
|----|---------|---------|----------|----------|-----|---------|---------|-------------|-----|---------|---------|-------------|------|----------------|
| 35 | 7.54    | 6.44    | 585.2195 | 1.96     | C_{27}H_{37}O_{14}⁻ | 373.1134, 211.09676, 193.0497, 149.05943 | nd | nd | nd | Unknown iridoid I (I) | nd | SC | NC |
| 36 | 7.98    | 6.88    | 583.2036 | 1.59     | C_{27}H_{35}O_{14}⁻ | 373.1143, 209.0815, 193.0497, 149.0595 | nd | nd | nd | Unknown iridoid II (I) | nd | + | + |
| 37 | 3.43    | 2.33    | 299.0771 | 1.30     | C_{13}H_{15}O_{8}⁻ | 137.0229, 93.0329 | 301.0920 | 1.20 | C_{13}H_{17}O_{8} | nd | Hydroxybenzoic acid hexoside I (P) | + | + | + |
| 38 | 3.58    | 2.48    | 359.0981 | 3.44     | C_{15}H_{19}O_{10}⁻ | 197.0446, 182.0211, 153.0544, 138.0308 | nd | nd | Dimethoxy-hydroxybenzoic acid hexoside (P) | nd | + | + |
| 39 | 3.67    | 2.57    | 315.0723 | 2.20     | C_{13}H_{15}O_{8}⁻ | 153.0544, 123.0436, 109.0279 | nd | nd | Dihydroxybenzoic acid hexoside (P) | + | + | + |
| 40 | 3.95    | 2.85    | 341.0875 | 2.80     | C_{15}H_{17}O_{9}⁻ | 179.0339, 135.0437 | nd | Caffeic acid hexoside (P) | nd | + | + |
| 41 | 3.81    | 2.71    | 299.0771 | 1.30     | C_{13}H_{15}O_{8}⁻ | 137.0229 | nd | nd | Hydroxybenzoic acid hexoside II (P) | + | + | + |
| 42 | 3.92    | 2.82    | 353.0879 | 3.25     | C_{16}H_{17}O_{9}⁻ | 191.0551, 179.0339, 161.0233, 135.0437 | 355.1021 | 2.28 | C_{16}H_{19}O_{9} | 163.0389, 145.0283, 135.0439, 117.0342 | 3-Caffeoylquinic acid (P) | + | + | + |
Table 8. Cont.

| No | rt (min) | [M – H]− | m/z | d (ppm) | Formula | Fragmentation | m/z | d (ppm) | Formula | Fragmentation | Name | Plant Material |
|----|----------|----------|-----|---------|---------|---------------|-----|---------|---------|---------------|------|----------------|
|    | UPLC-MS  | UPLC-PDA | m/z |         |         |               |     |         |         |               |      |                |
| 43 | 3.34     | 2.24     | 339.0718 | 2.31 | C_{15}H_{15}O_{9}− | 177.0182 | 341.0879 | −1.91 | C_{15}H_{17}O_{9} | 179.0331, 151.0758 | Esculin (P) | nd | nd | + | + |
| 44 | 4.36     | 3.26     | 353.0875 | 3.25 | C_{16}H_{17}O_{9}− | 191.0551 | 355.1022 | 2.08 | C_{16}H_{19}O_{9} | 163.0389, 145.0283, 135.0439 | 5-Caffeoylquinic acid (P) | + | + | + | + |
| 45 | 4.88     | 3.78     | 353.0875 | 3.25 | C_{16}H_{17}O_{9}− | 191.0551, 179.0339, 173.04428, 161.0233, 135.0437 | 355.1021 | 2.42 | C_{16}H_{19}O_{9} | 163.0389, 145.0283, 135.0439 | 4-Caffeoylquinic acid (P) | + | + | + | + |
| 46 | 4.93     | 3.83     | 353.0875 | 3.25 | C_{16}H_{17}O_{9}− | 191.0551 | 355.1022 | 2.06 | C_{16}H_{19}O_{9} | 163.0389, 145.0283, 135.0439 | Cis-5-Caffeoylquinic acid (P) | nd | + | + | + |
| 47 | 4.99     | 3.89     | 337.0929 | 3.26 | C_{16}H_{17}O_{8}− | 191.0551 | 339.1069 | 3.23 | C_{16}H_{19}O_{8} | 195.0641, 177.0547, 165.0539, 147.0437, 119.0491 | 3-Coumaroyl quinic acid (P) | nd | + | + | + |
| 48 | 5.36     | 4.26     | 367.1038 | 2.32 | C_{17}H_{19}O_{9}− | 193.0497, 191.0551, 173.0444 | 369.1175 | 2.90 | C_{17}H_{21}O_{9} | 177.0546, 145.0283, 117.033 | Feruloylquinic acid (P) | nd | + | + | + |
| 49 | 5.49     | 4.39     | 337.0930 | 3.26 | C_{16}H_{17}O_{8}− | 191.0551 | 339.1071 | 2.58 | C_{16}H_{19}O_{8} | 147.0437, 119.0491, 91.0542 | 5-Coumaroyl quinic acid (P) | nd | + | + | + |
| 50 | 5.77     | 4.67     | 367.1038 | 2.32 | C_{17}H_{19}O_{9}− | 191.0551 | 369.1173 | 3.47 | C_{17}H_{21}O_{9} | 177.0546, 135.0439 | Feruloylquinic acid (P) | nd | + | + | + |
| No | rt (min) | [M – H]⁻ | [M + H]⁺ | Name | Plant Material |
|----|---------|---------|---------|------|---------------|
|    | UPLC-MS | UPLC-PDA | m/z     | d (ppm) | Formula | Fragmentation | m/z | d (ppm) | Formula | Fragmentation | C | R | SC | NC |
| 51 | 6.33    | 5.23    | 515.1201| 2.10    | C₂₅H₂₅O₁₂⁻| 353.0883, 335.0776, 179.0338, 173.0446, 161.0229, 135.0436 | 517.1340 | 2.76 | C₂₅H₂₅O₁₂  | 163.0389, 145.0283, 135.0439 | 3,4-Caffeoylquinic acid (P) | nd | + | + | + |
| 52 | 6.46    | 5.36    | 515.1191| 1.55    | C₂₅H₂₃O₁₂⁻| 353.0876, 353.0876, 191.0551, 179.0339, 173.0444 | 517.1335 | 2.18 | C₂₅H₂₃O₁₂  | 163.0389, 145.0283, 135.0439 | 3,4-Caffeoylquinic acid (P) | nd | + | + | + |
| 53 | 6.58    | 5.48    | 515.1191| 0.36    | C₂₅H₂₃O₁₂⁻| 353.0877, 191.0551, 179.0339, 173.0443 | 517.1334 | 2.41 | C₂₅H₂₃O₁₂  | 163.0389, 145.0283, 135.0439 | 3,5-Caffeoylquinic acid (P) | nd | + | + | + |
| 54 | 6.56    | 5.46    | 579.2079| 1.89    | C₂₈H₃₅O₁₃⁻| 417.1554, 402.1318, 387.1084, 181.0495, 166.0259 | nd | nd | S(8-8)S hexoside (P) | nd | + | + | + |
| 55 | 6.84    | 5.74    | 515.1191| 0.37    | C₂₅H₂₃O₁₂⁻| 353.0877, 191.0551, 179.0339, 173.0443 | 517.1335 | 2.18 | C₂₅H₂₅O₁₂  | 163.0389, 145.0283, 135.0439 | 3,5-Caffeoylquinic acid (P) | nd | + | + | + |
| 56 | 7.57    | 6.47    | 515.1193| 0.70    | C₂₅H₂₃O₁₂⁻| 353.0879, 191.0551, 179.0339, 173.0444, 135.0437 | 517.1334 | 2.29 | C₂₅H₂₅O₁₂  | 163.0389, 145.0283, 135.0439 | 4,5-Caffeoylquinic acid (P) | nd | + | + | + |
| No | rt (min) | UPLC-MS | UPLC-PDA | m/z | d (ppm) | Formula | Fragmentation | m/z | d (ppm) | Formula | Fragmentation | Name | Plant Material |
|----|----------|---------|----------|------|---------|---------|--------------|------|---------|---------|--------------|------|----------------|
| 57 | 7.13     | 6.03    | 499.1249 | 1.81 | C_{25}H_{23}O_{11}− | 337.0934, 173.0445, 163.0389 | nd | nd | 3-Caffeoyl-5-coumaroylquinic acid (P) | nd | + | + | + |
| 58 | 7.31     | 6.21    | 499.1249 | 1.81 | C_{25}H_{23}O_{11}− | 353.0879, 337.0933, 191.0551, 179.0339, 163.0388, 135.0437 | nd | nd | 3-Caffeoyl-4-coumaroylquinic acid (P) | nd | + | + | + |
| 59 | 7.48     | 6.38    | 499.1249 | 1.81 | C_{25}H_{23}O_{11}− | 353.0879, 337.0933, 191.0551, 179.0339, 173.0444, 163.0388 | nd | nd | 5-Caffeoyl-4-coumaroylquinic acid (P) | nd | + | + | + |
| 60 | 7.42     | 6.32    | 529.1361 | 1.81 | C_{26}H_{25}O_{12}− | 367.1029, 353.0869, 193.0498, 191.0551, 179.0339, 173.0446, 135.0438 | nd | nd | 3-Caffeoyl-5-feruloylquinic acid (P) | + | + | + | + |
| 61 | 7.72     | 6.62    | 529.1361 | 1.81 | C_{26}H_{25}O_{12}− | 367.1029, 353.0869, 193.0498, 191.0551, 179.0339, 173.0446, 135.0438 | nd | nd | 4-Caffeoyl-5-feruloylquinic acid (P) | + | + | + | + |
| No | rt (min) | [M – H]− m/z | [M + H]+ m/z | Fragmentation | Name | Plant Material |
|----|---------|--------------|--------------|---------------|------|----------------|
| 62 | 8.18    | 7.08 499.1249 1.81 | 353.0874, 337.0928, 191.0552, 179.0339, 173.0444 | nd | nd | 4-Caffeoyl-5-coumaroylquinic acid (P) | nd + + + |
| 63 | 8.42    | 7.32 179.0338 −3.49 | 135.0437 | 181.0494 3.78 | C4H7O4− | nd | nd | Caffeic acid (P) | C4H7O4 163.0389, 145.0282, 138.0437 + + + |
| 64 | 9.05    | 7.95 515.1199 2.04 | 353.0879, 191.0551, 179.0339, 173.0444, 135.0437 | 517.13342 2.29 | C25H23O12− | nd | 4,5-Caffeoylquinic acid (P) | nd + + + |
| 65 | 8.71    | 7.61 1235.6069 0.69 | C59H95O27− | nd | nd | Macranthoidin A (T) | nd + + + |
| 66 | 9.10    | 8.00 927.4966 1.40 | C47H75O18− | 603.3903, 453.3357 | nd | nd | Akebiasaponin D (T) | nd + + + |
| 67 | 10.21   | 9.11 1073.5542 0.89 | C53H63O22− | nd | nd | Loniceroside C (T) | nd + + + |
| 68 | 11.32   | 10.22 957.5079 2.12 | C48H77O19− | 749.4479, 587.3954, 455.3544 | nd | nd | Bourneioside B (T) | nd + + + |
| 69 | 11.83   | 10.73 1057.523 1.87 | C52H61O22− | 687.4111, 567.3679 | nd | nd | Unknown Saponin I (T) | nd + + + |
Table 8. Cont.

| No | rt (min) | UPLC-MS | UPLC-PDA | m/z   | d (ppm) | Formula   | Fragmentation | [M + H]⁺ | m/z   | d (ppm) | Formula   | Fragmentation | Name               | Plant Material |
|----|---------|---------|---------|-------|--------|-----------|--------------|---------|-------|--------|-----------|--------------|------------------|----------------|
| 70 | 12.54   | 11.44   | 911.4990| 1.34  | C₄₇H₇₅O₁₇⁻ | nd        | 749.4475, 893.4863, 849.4981, 749.4475, 705.4574, 687.4468, 603.3901, 541.3889, 471.3448 |
| 71 | 12.60   | 11.50   | 765.4407| 0.15  | C₄₁H₆₅O₁₃⁻ | nd        | 603.3917, 471.3464 |
| 72 | 12.60   | 11.50   | 811.4491| 1.43  | C₄₂H₆₇O₁₅⁻ | nd        | 587.3946, 569.3834, 455.3531 |
| 73 | 13.21   | 12.11   | 749.4494| 0.93  | C₄₁H₆₅O₁₂⁻ | nd        | 557.3862, 453.3366 |
| 74 | 13.85   | 12.75   | 603.3904| 1.14  | C₃₅H₅₅O₈⁻ | nd        | 453.3356 |
| 75 | 14.83   | 13.73   | 795.4532| 1.43  | C₄₂H₆₇O₁₄⁻ | nd        | 453.3356 |
| 76 | 15.14   | 14.04   | 471.3478| 0.86  | C₃₀H₄₄O₄⁻ | nd        | 453.3356 |
| 77 | 15.66   | 14.56   | 469.3325| 1.63  | C₃₀H₄₄O₄⁻ | nd        | 453.3356 |
| 78 | 17.32   | 16.22   | 455.3531| 1.25  | C₃₀H₄₇O₃⁻ | nd        | 453.3356 |

Abbreviation: rt—retention time, m/z—mass to charge ratio, d—error between measured mass and calculated, nd—not detected. Compounds identified in plant biomass of *Linnaea borealis* var. *borealis* belong to the classes: A—acids; F—flavonoids; I—iridoids/terpene-O-hexosies; P—phenols; T—triterpenes.
In this study, the profile of hydroxycinnamic acid derivatives was mainly presented by esters of quinic acid with caffeic, coumaric, and ferulic acids. Four caffeoylquinic acids were recognized as trans-3 caffeoylquinic, trans-5 caffeoylquinic, trans-4 caffeoylquinic, and cis-5 caffeoylquinic. As reported by Ramabulana et al. [22], isomers of caffeoylquinic were recognized by the characteristic fragmentation pattern following at m/z value 191.0551 (C$_7$H$_7$O$_6$–, 1.5 ppm), 179.0339 (C$_6$H$_6$O$_5$–, 0.87 ppm), and 161.0233 (C$_5$H$_5$O$_4$–, 0.5 ppm) and retention time scoring. Deprotonated molecule at m/z 337.0929 were annotated as 3-coumaroylquinic acid (rt = 4.99 min) and 5-coumaroylquinic acid (rt = 5.49 min). Ions at m/z 367.1038 were observed at rt 5.36 and 5.77 min and putatively marked as 3- and 5-feruloylquinic acids, respectively. The fragmentation pattern showed the loss of ferulate moiety—176.0439 (C$_{10}$H$_8$O$_5$, 5 ppm). Deprotonated molecule at m/z 515.1191 (C$_{25}$H$_{23}$O$_{12}$–, 1.5 ppm) and 517.1334 (C$_{25}$H$_{25}$O$_{12}$+, 2.29 ppm) were observed for rt of 6.33, 6.46, 6.58, 6.84, 7.57, and 9.05 min, which suggested the existence of a few regio-isomers of dicaffeoylquinic acid. The fragmentation spectra of these precursor ions showed the following fragments in negative ion mode: 353.0876 (C$_{16}$H$_7$O$_6$–, 0.94 ppm), 191.0551 (C$_7$H$_7$O$_6$–, –2.53 ppm), 179.0339 (C$_6$H$_6$O$_5$–, 3.15 ppm), and 173.0444 (C$_5$H$_5$O$_4$–, –3.34 ppm), with varied abundance for specific isoforms. Four forms of caffeoyl coumaroylquinic acid were tentatively identified as 3 caffeoyl 5 coumaroylquinic acid (rt = 7.13 min), 3 caffeoyl 4 coumaroylquinic acid (rt = 7.31 min), 5 caffeoyl 4 coumaroylquinic acid (rt = 7.48 min), and 4 caffeoyl 5 coumaroylquinic acid (rt = 8.18 min). Moreover, conjugates of ferulic acid with caffeoylquinic acid were detected in the extracts and identified as 3 caffeoyl 5 feruloylquinic acid (rt = 7.42 min) and 4 caffeoyl 5 feruloylquinic acid (7.72 min). An ion at m/z 341.0875 corresponded with C$_{16}$H$_7$O$_6$– (2.8 ppm) formula and gave the fragmentation patterns of 179.0339 and 135.0437, characteristic of caffeic acid hexoside. The free form of caffeic acid was found at 8.42 min. One lignan and coumarin were putatively annotated as S(8-8)S hexoside and esculin, in accordance with the exact mass and the fragmentation pattern. Furthermore, derivatives of benzoic acid were found and noted as hydroxycinnamic acid hexoside (two forms at m/z 299.0771, at rt: 3.43 min and 3.81 min), dihydroxybenzoic acid hexoside (m/z 315.0723, at rt: 3.67 min), and dimethoxyhydroxybenzoic acid hexoside (m/z 359.0981, at rt: 3.58 min).

The second group of phenolic compounds were flavonoids. This group was represented by glycoconjugates of quercetin (301.0352, C$_{15}$H$_8$O$_7$–, 1.5 ppm), kaempferide (299.0558, C$_{16}$H$_8$O$_6$–, 0.86 ppm), kaempferol (285.04050, C$_{15}$H$_8$O$_6$–, 3.98 ppm), luteolin (285.0404, C$_{15}$H$_8$O$_6$–, 3.68 ppm), and apigenin (269.0455, C$_{15}$H$_8$O$_5$–, 5 ppm). Four of these compounds, i.e., apigenin, kaempferide, kaempferol, and luteolin, were identified as free aglycones at retention time of 9.10, 8.13, 9.42, and 9.26 min. Quercetin derivatives included quercetin-3-O-rutinoside (609.1459, C$_{27}$H$_{29}$O$_{16}$–, 0.63 ppm, rt = 5.76 min) and two quercetin hexoses, namely quercetin-3-O-glucoside (463.0887, C$_{21}$H$_{19}$O$_{12}$–, 2.29 ppm, rt = 6.02) and quercetin-3-O-galactoside (463.0887, C$_{21}$H$_{19}$O$_{12}$–, 2.29 ppm, rt = 6.25). In compliance with the fragmentation pattern, kaempferol-3-O-rutinoside and kaempferol-3-O-glucoside were putatively noted in the extracts. The conjugates of flavones were identified as luteolin-7,5-O-diglucoside, luteolin-5-O-rhamnoglucoside (two forms), luteolin-7-O-glucoside, apigenin-7-O-apio-glucoside, apigenin-7-O-rhamnoglucoside, and apigenin-7-O-glucoside. Neutral losses corresponded with hexose (–162.0527, C$_6$H$_6$O$_3$) and rhamnosehexose (–308.1109, C$_{12}$H$_{20}$O$_9$) moiety. The dimeric forms of procyanidin at m/z 577.1349 (C$_{30}$H$_{32}$O$_{17}$–, 1.5 ppm) were observed at given rt: 3.32, 3.49, and 4.71 min. The fragmentation spectra showed characteristic fragmentation pattern: 407.0768, 289.0717, 245.0813, 125.0229. Similarly, the structure 5 was annotated as catechin or epicatechin (isomer forms) that fragmented to m/z 245.0813, 125.0229.

Iridoid and secoiridoid groups were represented by 13 compounds. Deprotonated molecules at m/z 375.1294 at 4.11 and 4.27 min, corresponded with a molecular formula C$_{16}$H$_{20}$O$_{10}$– (0.72 ppm). The fragmentation spectra of these precursor ions showed masses of 213.0761 and 151.0752 that corresponded with the loss of hexose moiety and future fragmentation of aglycone. These compounds were annotated as loganic acid and epi-loganic...
acid. The derivate of loganic acid, deoxyloganic acid, was found at 5.97 min. The ions $m/z$ 373.1137 ($\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{21}\text{O}_{10}^{−}$, 2.27 ppm) were found at 4.09 and 4.62 min and annotated as swertiamarin and geniposidic acid. In accordance with literature data, the obtained fragmentation spectra for compounds 27, 29, 30, and 32 were compared with proposed fragmentation models and were noted as loganin ($m/z$ 391.1591, $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{27}\text{O}_{10}^{+}$, 3.39 ppm), secoxyloganin ($m/z$ 427.1203, $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{24}\text{O}_{11}\text{Na}^{+}$, 3.19 ppm), swerioside ($m/z$ 381.1151, $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_{9}\text{Na}^{+}$, 2.77 ppm), and secologanin ($m/z$ 389.1437, $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{25}\text{O}_{10}^{+}$, 2.76 ppm) [23]. The fragmentation spectra of these precursor ions show the loss of hexose ($−162.0527$, $\text{C}_{6}\text{H}_{10}\text{O}_{5}$) and fragmentation of aglycone. The compound 29 was putatively described as grandifloroside in comparison with its MS/MS spectra and exact mass. Moreover, two $[\text{M}−\text{H}]^{−}$ ions $m/z$ 585.2195 at 7.54 and $m/z$ 583.2036 at 7.98 min were marked as unknown terpene glycosides. Several triterpene saponins were found in the plant extracts. These compounds were recorded as macranthoidin A, akebiasaponin D, loniceroside C, bourneioside B, cauloside C, alpha-hederin, and cauloside A. Furthermore, three free aglycones were recognized with the use of the exact mass. These compounds could be annotated as hederagenin (15.14 min), gypsogenin (15.66 min), and oleanonic acid (17.32 min). Four compounds were marked as unknown saponins.

3. Discussion

To the best of the authors’ knowledge, this study has shown $L$. borealis introduction into in vitro cultures and the development of the micropropagation protocol, as well as establishment of callus induction and maintenance for the first time. Micropropagated plants and biomass from the other types of in vitro cultures can be an alternative source of secondary metabolites with the biological activity, which is particularly important for rare or unavailable in nature taxa, for example, due to the species protection status. Biotechnological production of biomass of such species facilitates the phytochemical and biological research without destroying their natural environments. Plant in vitro cultures can provide the sufficient quantity of high quality uniform biomass under controlled conditions [15,16,24].

Qi et al. [25], in their work on micropropagation of the species also belonging to Caprifoliaceae family, i.e., *Lonicera edulis*, indicated that in vitro propagation of multi-shoots promotes rapid multiplication of plant material and can be used in mass reproduction. The authors obtained the most efficient shoot propagation on a similar MS medium with the addition of BAP (1.0 mg/L) and IBA (0.2 mg/L) [25]. Similarly, in in vitro shoot cultures of *Lonicera caerulea* var. *kamtschatica* Pojark., the presence of BAP also enhanced production of new micro-shoots; however, its high concentration (2.0 mg/L) resulted in callus formation at the base of shoots, which is an undesirable feature for the homogeneity of the plant material [26]. This cytokinin at a lower concentration (0.1 mg/L) influenced significant growth of *Lonicera periclymenum* L. [27]. It is widely known that BAP positively affects the development of axillary buds, especially when combined with auxin of much lower concentration [28–30]. In the present study, multiplied shoots of $L$. borealis were not vitreous, regardless of the concentration of cytokinin, which is a desirable feature for the quality of plant material. Nonetheless, in the work of Dziedzic [26], it was observed that the media supplemented with a higher concentration of BAP (2.0 mg/L) brought a high percentage (even 36%) of vitrified shoots in *L. caerulea* var. *kamtschatica*. In a protocol of other micropropagated shrubs from Caprifoliaceae, namely *Kolkwitzia* and *Weigela*, the employment of BAP with a low concentration of auxin was preferred for the stimulation of the development of new buds [31,32].

Shoots cultured in the liquid media are a good source of biomass for the phytochemical and biological studies. Shoot biomass of $L$. borealis grew because not only horizontal fragments of stems (which came in contact with the solid medium in the solidified culture systems), but also the nodal segments in vertical stems, poured with the liquid medium, were exposed to the medium nutrients and phytohormones. Agitation clearly promoted shoot growth in liquid cultures of some other species, for example, *Eryngium alpinum* [17],
Lychnis flos-cuculi [33], Scutellaria alpina [34], and Schisandra chinensis (Turcz.) Baill. [35]. Interestingly, shoots of the studied L. borealis had correct morphology, while agitated shoots from the liquid media of many plant species cultured in vitro were characterized by abnormality and hyperhydricity, for example, E. alpinum [17] or S. alpina [34].

Micro-shoots of woody plants are usually difficult to grow roots [36]. The use of MS medium supplemented with IAA (5.0 mg/L) and IBA (2.0 mg/L) was dictated by the report on shoot rooting of the woody species, L. caerulea var. kamtschatica, grown in vitro cultures. The same types and concentrations of two auxins were used in rooting of L. borealis shoots; however, MS medium was used in this study. In the research of Dziedzic [26], Woody Plant Medium (WPM) was applied. Moreover, satisfactory rooting was also obtained for other honeysuckle plants [36,37].

Explants from shoot cultures and plants of L. borealis from in vitro culture were used for callus induction; these were leaves, apical fragments of rootlets, and internodal fragments of stems. The highest percentages of responses were obtained from roots, while the most intense callus development was observed on leaves. The differentiation in callus induction from distinct plant explants was affected by the type and age of an explant [38].

The purpose of the preliminary phytochemical analysis was to investigate whether in vitro plant cultures of L. borealis var. borealis are capable of biosynthesis of secondary metabolites. Multiplied shoots obtained from in vitro cultures produced secondary metabolites analogous to those produced by plants growing in the wild. The analysis of the biomass extracts of callus cultures revealed that callus produced phenolic acids, but was not able to biosynthesize flavonoids. The reason for this inability may be the type of a nutrient solution and a concentration of plant growth regulators used in the medium. The results of other authors indicated that callus cells of various plant species usually do not produce flavonoids, but are able to synthesize phenolic acids [28,39].

The analysis with the use of HPLC/MS has allowed to observe the presence of iridoid compounds and triterpenoid saponins in the European species L. borealis var. borealis for the first time. The Lonicera genus as well as L. borealis species belong to the family of Caprifoliaceae s.l., hence, there was a high probability of finding iridoids in biomass of the species studied [40]. Compounds annotated as loganin, secoxyloganin, secologanin, loganic acid, and morroniside were present in Lonicera species—L. morrowii, L × bella, and L. tatarica [40]. The phytochemistry of Lonicera was previously investigated due to the importance of various species in traditional pharmacopeias, and the genus contains a class of secondary compounds, iridoid and secoiridoid glycosides, with the established economic importance [40]. According to Jensen et al. [41], secologanin and morroniside—iridoids of VI group (simple secoiridoids), sweroside—iridoid of VII group and loganin—iridoid of X group are characteristic of the family of Caprifoliaceae.

Several triterpene saponins were found in the studied extracts of L. borealis. Few triterpenoid compounds were formerly reported in closely related Lonicera species. These compounds were annotated as hederin-type triterpenoid saponins macranthoidin A found in L. confuse [42], akebiasaponin D and cauloside C determined in L. macranthoides [43], as well as loniceroside C and cauloside A revealed in L. japonica [44,45]. Moreover, lupine-type triterpenoid saponin—borneiobioside B present in the studied L. borealis—was previously detected in L. bournei [46].

The presence of a larger number of phenolic acids and flavonoids similarly to the study of Glennie [11] was detected. In present study, the profile of hydroxycinnamic acid derivatives was mainly presented by esters of quinic acid with caffeic, coumaric, and ferulic acids. The second group of phenolic compounds were flavonoids. This group was represented by glycoconjugates of quercetin, kaempferide, kaempferol, luteolin, and apigenin, which were partially identified by Glennie in American varieties of L. borealis [11]. Research manuscripts reporting large datasets that are deposited in a publicly available database should specify where the data have been deposited and provide the relevant accession numbers. If the accession numbers have not yet been obtained at the time of
4. Materials and Methods

4.1. Plant Material, In Vitro Cultures Initiation, and Growth Chamber Parameters

Healthy and vigorous shoot pieces obtained from adult plants of *L. borealis* var. *borealis* were collected from the mixed coniferous forest in Wiselka, the Wolin National Park, Poland, in July 2017. The plant specimen was deposited in Herbarium of the Department of Pharmaceutical Botany and Plant Biotechnology of Poznan University of Medical Sciences. About 5–7-cm long fragments of shoots with nodes were thoroughly rinsed with distilled water and then immersed in 70% (v/v) ethanol for 30 s. Then, plant fragments were washed with a 30% solution of a commercial disinfectant (Domestos), containing 4.28% of calcium hypochlorite with the addition of Tween 20. Sterilization was carried out for 15 min. Explants were thoroughly rinsed with sterile distilled water in a laminar flow cabinet, dried and divided into smaller apical and nodal fragments. After the final wash, individual explants were transferred to 250-cm$^3$ Erlenmeyer flasks containing 50 cm$^3$ of the solidified basal medium consisting of MS medium [47] supplemented with various plant growth regulators (PGRs), 0.76% agar and pH set to 5.8 prior to autoclaving at 121°C, 105 kPa for 20 min. The culture vessels were placed in a growth chamber (21°C ± 2°C; with a 16 h light/8 h dark photoperiod; 55 µmol/m$^2$/s light).

4.2. Shoot Multiplication on Solid Media

In the first experiment, the authors of the study tried to find out whether node segments or shoot tips with apical meristems (both of 2–2.5 cm with 3–4 nodes) were more favorable explants for shoot multiplication in relation to double shoots (a cluster consisting of 2 short shoots). To determine beneficial conditions for shoot multiplication, the media were supplemented with BAP (0.5–2.0 mg/L) or kinetin (Kin 1.0 mg/L, 2.0 mg/L), IAA (0.1 mg/L), and gibberellic acid (GA$_3$ 1.0 mg/L). Multiplication of shoots was replicated three times for each hormonal treatment, using at least 10–20 explants.

The second experiment was dedicated to verify how many new shoots may be obtained as a result of shoot multiplication within eight weeks. For this purpose, single shoots as well as multi-shoots (with two or three shoots), obtained from the initially multiplied shoots, were transferred to the solid MS medium with the selected concentrations of PGRs, that is BAP (1.0 mg/L), IAA (0.1 mg/L) and GA$_3$ (1.0 mg/L). Due to a particularly small size of a plant, explants used for the experiments were not only single shoots, but also clusters of two or three micro-shoots. Multiplication of shoots was replicated three times using at least 10–20 explants.

After a few subcultures, the multiplication rates were recorded by determination of the number of new micro-shoots that proliferated from the initial explant.

4.3. Shoot Multiplication in Liquid Media (Agitated Cultures)

Single shoots as well as multi-shoots (with two or three stems) about 2–3 cm long with 5–6 nodes, obtained from developed shoot cultures on the solid media, were transferred to the liquid MS medium with the selected concentrations of PGRs, namely BAP (1.0 mg/L), IAA (0.1 mg/L), and GA$_3$ (1.0 mg/L); 100-cm$^3$ Erlenmeyer flasks with 10 cm$^3$ of medium were used for shoot biomass production (the ratio of glass volume to medium volume was 10:1). Cultures were maintained on a rotary shaker (110 rpm). After eight weeks of culture, the number of new shoots per explant and the shoots length index (LI) were measured. At least 10 explants were used for multiplication of shoots. The initial (L0) and the final (LX) lengths of cultured shoots were measured. The length increase index [LI] was calculated according to the following formula: LI = [(LX − L0)/L0] × 100%.
4.4. Shoot Rooting

An attempt at rooting of clusters of several shoots was made. Multi-shoots (3–4 shoots) 3 to 5 cm in length were used. Explants were kept in 70-cm$^3$ glass tubes containing 15 cm$^3$ of the solidified medium (1/4 MS—salts reduced to 25%, 1/2 MS—salts reduced to 50%, MS—full strength of mineral salts) without auxins or supplemented with IAA (0.5–4.0 mg/L) or indole-3-butyric acid (IBA 0.5–5.0 mg/L), or the combination of both auxins. Shoots were grown under the same light and temperature conditions as shoot cultures obtained via clonal propagation. After eight weeks, the number and the length of induced roots were observed.

4.5. Callus Induction and Maintenance

Fragments of stems, leaves, and roots of micropropagated plantlets were used for callus initiation. Explants were transferred to 150-cm$^3$ Erlenmeyer flasks containing 30 cm$^3$ of the solidified basal medium consisting of MS nutrients with dicamba (Dic, 1.0 mg/L), or picloram (Pic, 0.5 mg/L; 1.0 mg/L; 2.0 mg/L), or 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4-D, 2.0 mg/L), or 2,4-D (2.0 mg/L) and Kin (0.2 mg/L; 0.5 mg/L), or 2,4-D (2.0 mg/L) and 1-naphthaleneacetic acid (NAA, 0.2 mg/L). Callus induced on explants was removed and transferred to a new medium of the same PGRs composition. Callus cultures were passaged every five weeks. In order to stabilize culture, fragments that were developing well were selected during the passage. After the morphological evaluation, the callus lines with the fastest growth were selected and the rate of biomass growth was calculated for the three following passages (VII, VIII, IX). The initial (FW0) and the final (FWX) weights of the callus lumps were measured. The growth index (GI) was calculated after three passages during three consecutive subcultures according to the following formula: $GI = [(FWX − FW0)/FW0] × 100\%$. The flasks were stored in a darkroom. The following MS media were used in the experiment of callus stabilization: supplemented with Pic 1.0 mg/L or Pic 2.0 mg/L as well as with 2,4-D 2.0 mg/L and NAA 0.5 mg/L.

4.6. Flow Cytometry

Leaves of seedlings and in vitro shoots multiplied on MS medium, which was optimal for micropropagation, were used for the nuclear DNA content estimation. Petunia hybrida P × Pc6 (2.85 pg/2C) Marie and Brown, 1993 served as an internal standard. The samples were prepared as previously described [48], by simultaneous chopping of leaves of a sample and an internal standard in 1.0 mL of cold nuclei isolation buffer [49] supplemented with 1% (v/v) polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP-10), propidium iodide (PI; 50 µg/cm$^3$) and ribonuclease A (50 µg/cm$^3$). For each sample, at least 5000 nuclei were analyzed directly after preparation, using the CyFlow Ploidy Analyzer flow cytometer (Sysmex Partec). Histograms were analyzed using the CyView 1.6 computer program. The analyses were replicated three times for each plant material. The coefficient of variation (CV) of G0/G1 peak of L. borealis ranged from 3.51 to 5.11%. The nuclear DNA content was calculated using the linear relationship between the ratio of the G0/G1 peak positions L. borealis/Petunia on a histogram of fluorescence intensities.

4.7. UPLC-HESI-HRMS Phytochemical Screening

Dry material, namely leafy shoots of intact plants, shoots and roots of micropropagated plantlets and callus biomass (50 mg), was extracted with 1.5 mL of cold 80% methanol for 12h at 4°C, and then centrifuged (14,000 rpm, 4°C, 10 min). The obtained supernatant was filtered through a PTFE membrane filter (14 mm, 0.22 µm, Kinesis) into glass HPLC vials (Agilent).

The Aquity UPLC (Waters, Milford, MA, USA) with the high resolution Orbitrap mass spectrometer (Thermo Fischer, Bremen, Germany) were used for the analysis of the methanolic extract of Linnea borealis. Two microliters of the sample were injected onto the BEH C13 column (1.7 µm of diameter, 2.1 × 150 mm) and separated with the use of 0.1% formic acid (LC-MS grade, Fluka) in ultrapure water (solvent A, MiliQ, Merck,
Darmstadt, Germany) and acetonitrile (solvent B, LC-MS grade, Merck) at the flow rate of 0.300 µL/min and column temperature of 50 °C. The gradient program consisted of 2% B, 12 min—30% B, 15 min—98% B, 17 min—98% B, 18 min—2% B, and isocratic 2% B to 20 min. The PDA detector was operated at 250, 270, 330, and 360 nm of the wavelength. The heated electrospray ion source (HESI-II) settings were the following: capillary voltage −2.5 kV (negative), +3.5 kV (positive), sheath gas flow—35, auxiliary gas flow—10, sweep gas flow—3 arbitrary units, ion transfer tube temperature—400 °C, auxiliary gas heater temperature 350 °C, and S-lens RF level—50. The spectra were recorded at mass resolution of 70,000 FWHM in m/z range of 150–1500 and at 200 ms maximum injection time for full-MS scans and resolution of 17 500 FWHM, and at 50 ms maximum injection time for data dependent MS2 scans (top 5).

4.8. Statistical Analysis

The collected biotechnological data were subjected to a one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) followed by Duncan’s POST-HOC test. ANOVA and the subsequent Student’s test were used for the flow cytometric results analysis. A two-sided p-value of 0.05 was applied to declare statistical significance. All the analyses were conducted employing STATISTICA v. 13 (StatSoft, Inc., Kraków, Poland, 2015).

5. Conclusions

The introduction of the rare and protected species L. borealis L. var. borealis into in vitro cultures enabled rapid clonal multiplication. This study demonstrated the influence of the type of the plant explant, hormonal supplementation in the medium and culture system on shoot multiplication and root development. The most efficient multiplied shoot biomass may be obtained from numerous lateral buds developed from multi-node stem segments in agitated liquid culture, in accordance with the biology of this species. A vigorously growing callus also ensures a good source of plant biomass and may be useful to obtain cell suspension culture in the future. In vitro technique can be used as a nondestructive approach for producing secondary metabolites from the homogenous biomass of medicinally important plants.

The preliminary phytochemical studies confirmed the presence of phenolic acids and flavonoid compounds in the species and have demonstrated the presence of iridoids and triterpenoid saponins for the first time. The chemical profile of European twinflower suggests the potential uses of both plant material from intact plants and biomass from in vitro cultures as a source of bioactive compounds with the confirmed pharmacological activity. Multiplied biomass with the profiled phytochemical composition of valuable secondary metabolites could be used for the biological studies of pharmacological interest.

Collection of in vitro plantlets may be also concerned as an ex situ conservation strategy for this rare European taxon.

Supplementary Materials: The following are available online. Figure S1: 2-D chromatogram of Linnaea borealis var. borealis extract of leafy shoots from natural sites. Figure S2: 2-D chromatogram of Linnaea borealis var. borealis extract of shoot cultures. Figure S3: 2-D chromatogram of Linnaea borealis var. borealis extract of roots from micropropagated plantlets. Figure S4: 2-D chromatogram of Linnaea borealis var. borealis extract of biomass from callus cultures.

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