Effects of different doses of paclobutrazol and sucrose in the minimum in vitro growth of wild species of Manihot

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ABSTRACT: In vitro conservation, under minimal growth conditions, allows prolonging the periods between subcultures without affecting plant viability, besides reducing the contamination risk and the space required for cultivation. Experiments were conducted by using 8S as a basic culture medium, supplemented with combinations of five concentrations of paclobutrazol (PBZ - 0; 0.10; 0.20; 0.30 and 0.40 mg L⁻¹) and sucrose (SUC - 0; 5; 10; 15; and 20 g L⁻¹), resulting in 25 treatments, applied on three wild species: Manihot violacea, M. flabellifolia and M. pseudoglaziovii. After 120 days of cultivation, the evaluated variables, namely plant height (cm) and the numbers of mini-cuttings with 1 cm, roots, shoots, green and senescent leaves, allowed verifying that, for the species M. pseudoglaziovii, the interaction of the 0.1 mg L⁻¹ PBZ and 5 g L⁻¹ SUC doses revealed a significant effect on the in vitro conservation. While for M. violacea, the combination of 10 g L⁻¹ SUC and 0.2 mg L⁻¹ PBZ is the most suitable for its conservation. Lastly, for M. flabelifolia, the concentrations used of SUC and PBZ did not prove efficient for in vitro conservation of the species.

Key words: germplasm preservation; Manihot flabellifolia; M. pseudoglaziovii; M. violaceae; sucrose

Efeitos de diferentes doses de paclobutrazol e sacarose no crescimento mínimo in vitro de espécies silvestres de Manihot

RESUMO: A conservação in vitro sob condições de crescimento mínimo permite prolongar os períodos entre os subcultivos sem afetar a viabilidade da planta, além de reduzir o risco de contaminação e o espaço necessário para cultivo. Experimentos foram realizados utilizando o 8S como meio de cultura básico, suplementado com combinações de cinco concentrações de paclobutrazol (PBZ - 0; 0.10; 0.20; 0.30 e 0.40 mg L⁻¹) e sacarose (SAC - 0; 5; 10; 15; e 20 g L⁻¹), resultando em 25 tratamentos, aplicados em três espécies silvestres: Manihot violacea, M. flabellifolia e M. pseudoglaziovii. Após 120 dias de cultivo, as variáveis avaliadas, altura de planta (cm) e números de miniestacas com 1 cm, raízes, brotações, folhas verdes e senescentes, permitiram verificar que a interação de 0,1 mg L⁻¹ PBZ e 5 g L⁻¹ SAC revelou efeito expressivo na conservação in vitro em M. pseudoglaziovii. Em M. violacea, a combinação de 0,2 mg L⁻¹ PBZ e 10 g L⁻¹ SAC é a mais indicada para sua conservação. As concentrações de PBZ e SAC avaliadas no presente estudo não se mostraram eficientes para conservação in vitro de M. flabelifolia.

Palavras-chave: preservação de germoplasma; Manihot flabellifolia; M. pseudoglaziovii; M. violaceae; sacarose
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**Introduction**

In vitro conservation under slow-growth conditions, by means of reducing cell metabolism, tissue growth and explants development, allows prolonging the periods between one subculture and another, without affecting their viability. This technique reduces the contamination risk and chances of a somaclonal variation appearing, allowing preservation of large collections in a reduced physical space. Growth retardation is usually achieved by varying chemical factors (composition of the culture medium), physical factors (changes in incubation conditions), or from the combination of both factors (Roca et al., 1991; Marco-Medina & Casas, 2012).

Modifications in the culture medium may involve changes in concentration or the nature of growth regulators, reduction in the concentration of mineral elements, addition of osmotic compounds such as mannitol, sorbitol, and sucrose, and addition of growth retardants (Grattapaglia & Machado, 1998). Sucrose is a frequently used osmotic agent, which acts in the culture medium by capturing, through osmotic gradient, the remaining intracellular water, allowing the growth to happen more slowly (Arrigoni-Blank et al., 2014).

For many plant species, growth inhibitors applied to the in vitro conservation medium are necessary to control growth and slow down the aging process. In this context, paclobutrazol consists of a plant growth regulator that acts by inhibiting the biosynthesis of gibberellin, perceptibly reducing both cell division and elongation, and consequently slowing down the plant growth without occurrence of cytotoxicity (Silva et al., 2003).

In the long term, techniques for cassava in vitro conservation are generally more economical and less risky when compared to field collections. They also have other advantages, such as reducing the space required for keeping these species, reducing losses due to climatic and soil-inherent factors, the possibility of maintaining backup copies of the plants in field and ease of germplasm exchange. This is especially useful method for the wild Manihot species, which, unlike the cultivated ones, are notoriously difficult to keep in field collections outside their natural habitat and even in vitro.

However, in vitro germplasm conservation uses techniques that are fully manipulative and, in turn, adaptable to the particular conditions required for each species, justifying the need for specific studies that establish adequate conservation protocols. With this in mind, this study was conducted to evaluate the effects of different concentrations of paclobutrazol and sucrose on in vitro conservation, on three wild species under slow-growth conditions: Manihot violacea (Pohl) Müll. Arg., Manihot flabellifolia Pohl and Manihot pseudoglaziowii Pax & Hoff.

**Materials and Methods**

Experiments were conducted in the Laboratory of Tissue Culture (LCT) of the Nucleus of Advanced Biology (NBA) from Embrapa Cassava and Fruits, in Cruz das Almas, Bahia. Three wild cassava species were used in this study: *Manihot violacea* (Pohl) Müll. Arg., *M. flabellifolia* Pohl and *M. pseudoglaziowii* Pax & Hoff.

The basic culture medium used was 8S (CIAT, 1984) plus concentrations of paclobutrazol (PBZ) (0; 0.10; 0.20; 0.30 and 0.40 mg L⁻¹) and sucrose (SUC) (0; 5; 10; 15 and 20 g L⁻¹), combined among themselves. Thus, the experimental design used was the entirely randomized, in a 5 x 5 factorial design, totaling 25 treatments, with 20 replicates/treatment, each one represented by a plant grown in a test tube. These 25 treatments with combination of studied factors (PBZ and sucrose), were applied on the three species under study (*M. violacea*, *M. flabellifolia* and *M. pseudoglaziowii*) and then isolated, resulting in three experiments.

Phytagele® (2.4 g L⁻¹) was added as a gelling agent, after adjusting the PH of the culture medium to 5.8. After autoclaving for 20 minutes at 121°C, the culture medium was distributed in 10mL- aliquots per glass test tube (25 mm diameter and 150 mm long). Plants sectioned into nodal segments of approximately 1 cm containing one bud were used as the explants. Plants were then incubated in a conservation room, under environmental conditions that favor slow growth, that is, by using temperature of 22 ± 1 °C, 12-hour photoperiod with light intensity of 18.5 μmol.m⁻².s⁻¹, and 3U white-light fluorescent lamps.

The evaluation was performed at 120 days after inoculation of explants, by assessing plant height, number of 1-cm-mini-cuttings, number of roots, number of sprouts, and the number of green and senescent leaves. Data collected were subjected to the F test of the analysis of variance. Polynomial regression models were fitted to the means of paclobutrazol and sucrose. Statistical analyses were performed by employing the SISVAR statistical program (Ferreira, 2013). Means from the numbers of mini-cuttings, roots, sprouts, green leaves and senescent leaves were transformed into √x + 0.5, in order to meet the assumptions of the analysis of variance.

**Results and Discussion**

Using 8S as the basic medium, different concentrations of paclobutrazol (PBZ), as a growth retardant, and sucrose (SUC), as a carbon source and osmotic regulator, were tested over three experiments, considering it is essential that the metabolism reduction is associated with maintaining plant viability for the efficiency of the in vitro conservation of germplasm.

In this perspective, two out six evaluated variables (plant height and number of senescent leaves) should present lower means correlated to higher values of the other variables (number of mini-cuttings, number of roots, number of shoots and number of green leaves), as a way to identify if the growth reduction does not hinder the multiplication, recovery and subsequent rescue of the plants.

**Experiment I: Effect from different concentrations of paclobutrazol (PBZ) and sucrose (SUC) on in vitro conservation of the species M. pseudoglaziowii**

From observing the analysis of variance, the interaction PBZ x SUC demonstrated a highly significant effect (p < 0.01)
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Table 1. Summary of the analysis of variance for plant height (PH, in cm), number of mini-cuttings (NM), number of roots (NR), number of shoots (NS), number of green leaves (NGL) and number of senescent leaves (NSL) for *M. pseudoglaziovii*, as a function of the concentrations of paclobutrazol (PBZ) and sucrose (SAC).

| VF           | DoF | PH     | NM     | NR     | NS     | NGL    | NSL    |
|--------------|-----|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| PBZ          | 4   | 139.58** | 2.43** | 0.29*  | 0.036ns| 0.42ns | 1.03** |
| SUC          | 4   | 1282.29**| 22.11**| 35.95**| 0.057**| 7.98** | 1.44** |
| PBZ x SUC    | 16  | 129.22** | 2.61** | 3.38** | 0.036**| 1.17** | 0.37** |
| Error        | 389 | 8.03   | 0.12   | 0.12   | 0.02   | 0.18   | 0.13   |
| CV (%)       |     | 30.90  | 14.15  | 18.30  | 10.54  | 16.24  | 36.96  |
| Overall mean |     | 9.17   | 5.75   | 3.79   | 1.17   | 6.83   | 0.59   |

ns = non-significant; * (p < 0.05); ** (p < 0.01).

Coefficients of variation (CV %) obtained in this study ranged from 10.54%, for number of shoots (NS), to 36.96%, for number of senescent leaves (NSL). Regarding the amplitude of the values from obtained coefficients of variation (CV%), they may be associated with different biological responses of plants under in vitro experiments, deemed as normal for studies with plant tissue culture (Werner et al., 2012), hence ensuring a good experimental precision.

Table 2 illustrates the polynomial regression models, with the fittings of first and second degree models, with the coefficient of determination ($R^2$) ranging from 60.46% to 99.67% on the variable number of roots.

Table 2. Regression equations, coefficients of determination, optimum doses and estimated values of plant height (cm), number of mini-cuttings, number of sprouts, number of green leaves and number of senescent leaves for *Manihot pseudoglaziovii* as a function of concentrations of paclobutrazol (PBZ) and sucrose (SUC).

| Interactions | Doses | Equations                  | $R^2$ (%) | Optimal doses | Estimated values |
|--------------|-------|----------------------------|-----------|---------------|-----------------|
| **Plant height (cm)** |       |                            |           |               |                 |
| PBZ (SAC)    | 0     | $\hat{y} = 194.385x^2 - 22.83x + 2.0198$ | 93.13     | 0.06          | 1.35            |
|              | 5     | $\hat{y} = -39.94x^2 + 39.107x + 8.5023$ | 78.44     | 0.14          | 11.33           |
|              | 10    | $\hat{y} = -92.534x^2 + 21.723x + 12.577$ | 99.35     | 0.12          | 13.85           |
|              | 20    | $\hat{y} = -47.891x^2 + 6.2169x + 14.1$ | 91.97     | 0.06          | 14.30           |
| SAC (PBZ)    | 0     | $\hat{y} = -0.0449x^2 + 1.4547x + 2.2396$ | 95.57     | 16.20         | 14.02           |
|              | 0.1   | $\hat{y} = -0.0387x + 1.405x + 1.7771$ | 99.11     | 18.15         | 14.52           |
|              | 0.2   | $\hat{y} = -0.0408x^2 + 1.2907x + 2.6777$ | 81.44     | 15.82         | 12.88           |
|              | 0.3   | $\hat{y} = -0.04x^2 + 1.218x + 3.3391$ | 84.42     | 15.23         | 12.61           |

| Number of mini-cuttings |       |                            |           |               |                 |
| PBZ (SAC)              | 0     | $\hat{y} = 48.004x^2 - 11.263x + 1.5455$ | 95.88     | 0.12          | 8.80            |
| PBZ (SAC)              | 5     | $\hat{y} = -90.284x^2 + 25.474x + 6.0208$ | 86.11     | 0.14          | 7.82            |
| PBZ (SAC)              | 10    | $\hat{y} = -4.1315x + 7.764$ | 72.86     | 0             | 7.76            |
| PBZ (SAC)              | 15    | $\hat{y} = -51.696x^2 + 11.7x + 7.5095$ | 94.78     | 0.11          | 8.17            |
| PBZ (SAC)              | 20    | $\hat{y} = -7.5245x + 8.7853$ | 87.88     | 0             | 8.78            |
| SAC (PBZ)              | 0.1   | $\hat{y} = -0.0308x + 0.9071x + 1.8354$ | 91.31     | 14.73         | 8.51            |
| SAC (PBZ)              | 0.2   | $\hat{y} = -0.028x^2 + 0.837x + 1.8732$ | 85.07     | 14.95         | 8.13            |
| SAC (PBZ)              | 0.3   | $\hat{y} = -0.0266x^2 + 0.6808x + 2.7745$ | 70.98     | 12.79         | 7.13            |

| Number of roots |       |                            |           |               |                 |
| PBZ (SAC)       | 0     | $\hat{y} = 47.959x^2 - 12.469x + 0.2878$ | 85.71     | 0.13          | 0.52            |
| PBZ (SAC)       | 5     | $\hat{y} = -66.122x^2 + 22.331x + 2.3201$ | 61.10     | 0.17          | 4.21            |
| PBZ (SAC)       | 10    | $\hat{y} = 41.801x^2 - 10.927x + 4.0022$ | 72.49     | 0.13          | 3.29            |
| PBZ (SAC)       | 15    | $\hat{y} = -48.113x^2 + 16.52x + 5.0007$ | 97.75     | 0.17          | 6.49            |
| PBZ (SAC)       | 20    | $\hat{y} = -35.021x^2 + 8.7863x + 6.3687$ | 60.46     | 0.13          | 6.92            |
| SAC (PBZ)       | 0     | $\hat{y} = -0.0122x + 0.5164x + 0.2269$ | 97.67     | 21.16         | 5.69            |
| SAC (PBZ)       | 0.1   | $\hat{y} = -0.0007x^2 + 0.4086x + 0.0915$ | 99.67     | 29.19         | 6.05            |
| SAC (PBZ)       | 0.2   | $\hat{y} = -0.0059x + 0.4241x + 0.5804$ | 77.10     | 35.94         | 8.20            |
| SAC (PBZ)       | 0.3   | $\hat{y} = -0.0323x^2 + 0.8674x + 0.2366$ | 97.47     | 13.43         | 6.06            |

| Number of sprouts |       |                            |           |               |                 |
| PBZ (SAC)         | 5     | $\hat{y} = -7.449x^2 + 2.5224x + 1.131$ | 62.55     | 0.17          | 1.34            |
| PBZ (SAC)         | 20    | $\hat{y} = 7.0502x^2 - 2.8531x + 1.3745$ | 94.35     | 0.20          | 1.09            |
| SAC (PBZ)         | 0     | $\hat{y} = 0.0136x + 1.0494$ | 83.20     | 20.00         | 1.32            |
| SAC (PBZ)         | 0.4   | $\hat{y} = 0.0159x + 0.9964$ | 78.33     | 20.00         | 1.31            |

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Continuation of Table 2

| Interactions | Doses | Equations | R² (%) | Optimal doses | Estimated values |
|--------------|-------|-----------|--------|---------------|------------------|
| Number of green leaves | | | | | |
| PBZ (SAC) | 0 | $\hat{y}^* = 43.844x^2 - 10.699x + 3.8231$ | 93.67 | 0.12 | 3.17 |
| PBZ (SAC) | 5 | $\hat{y}^* = -62.971x^2 + 16.512x + 7.389$ | 84.69 | 0.13 | 8.47 |
| PBZ (SAC) | 15 | $\hat{y}^* = -4.3481x + 8.4279$ | 68.65 | 0 | 8.43 |
| PBZ (SAC) | 20 | $\hat{y}^* = -4.9165x + 7.9922$ | 84.23 | 0 | 7.99 |
| SAC (PBZ) | 0 | $\hat{y}^* = -0.0294x + 0.7644x + 3.9391$ | 96.81 | 13.00 | 8.91 |
| SAC (PBZ) | 0.1 | $\hat{y}^* = -0.0258x + 0.6866x + 4.0239$ | 75.85 | 13.31 | 8.59 |
| SAC (PBZ) | 0.2 | $\hat{y}^* = -0.0259x + 0.6741x + 3.9804$ | 95.01 | 13.01 | 8.37 |
| SAC (PBZ) | 0.3 | $\hat{y}^* = -0.0259x + 0.5804x + 4.509$ | 74.68 | 11.20 | 7.76 |

** and * significant at 1% and 5% of probability, respectively, by the F test.

Additionally, the combination of these two abovementioned concentrations of PBZ and SUC are associated with higher means for the numbers of mini-cuttings (7.82), roots (4.21), shoots (1.34) and green leaves (8.47), thus revealing the expressive effect of this interaction on the in vitro conservation of *M. pseudoglaziovii*. This is interesting for conservation because, despite the reduction in plant height, the other variables should present the best values for maintaining the varieties from plants conserved in vitro. Still on the shoot, Cardoso et al. (2018) reported that the highest means in leaf production for the cassava variety (BRS Verdhina) was obtained with the concentration of 30 g L⁻¹ SUC. Furthermore, these same authors report that this increase may be associated with the source-drain relation, considering that the greater the SUC accumulation in leaves is, the greater the transfer to the roots and the development of tubers will also be.

Experiment II: Effect from different concentrations of paclobutrazol (PBZ) and sucrose (SUC) on in vitro conservation of the species *M. violacea*

Summary of the analysis of variance (Table 3) demonstrates that the interaction PBZ x SUC was also significant for all variables.

It is also noted an oscillation from 4.56% (NB) to 28.93% (NSL) in the coefficients of variation (CV). Table 4 illustrates the polynomial regression models, where the coefficients of determination ($R^2$) varying from 51.18 to 100% for number of senescent leaves and plant height are observed, respectively.
In this experiment, the highest estimated mean for number of roots (5.42) occurred in the association of 0.4 mg L\(^{-1}\) of PBZ and 25.50 g L\(^{-1}\) of SUC (Table 4). The development of the root system during the conservation period is important for later acclimatization of plants, since transferring them to the field is a necessity. Negi et al. (2017) reported the action mode of PBZ has been associated with root thickening and thus the plant probably has more adaptive mechanisms for a future ex vitro condition.

As for the variable number of shoots, the dose of 20 g L\(^{-1}\) SUC, in absence of PBZ, had the highest estimated mean (1.13). However, Ramírez-Mosqueda et al. (2019) found that absence of PBZ on conservation of the *Laelia anceps* orchid was not efficient for preserving plants under low growth-rate conditions.

The interaction between concentrations of 10 g L\(^{-1}\) SUC and 0.2 mg L\(^{-1}\) PBZ influenced both the number of green leaves (4.22) and the number of senescent leaves (4.50), besides presenting a positive behavior regarding plant height (12.12 cm) and number of mini-cuttings (9.91), thus revealing the superiority of this treatment for *Manihot violacea*. This same SUC dose was the one found by Cardoso et al. (2018) as the responsible for providing the best vegetative development for the BRS Verdinha cassava variety. Agreeing to the stated, Figueiredo et al. (2018) observed that SUC doses lower than 30 g L\(^{-1}\) are sufficient to maintain the plant survival rates, although decreased growth occurred in conservation of jenipapo tree (*Genipa americana*).

![Image](https://via.placeholder.com/150)

**Table 4. Regression equations, coefficients of determination, optimum dose and estimated values of plant height (cm), number of mini-cuttings, number of sprouts, number of green leaves and number of senescent leaves of the species *M. violacea*, as a function of concentrations of paclobutrazol (PBZ) and sucrose (SUC).**

| Interactions | Doses | Equations | \(R^2\) (%) | Optimal doses | Estimated values |
|--------------|-------|-----------|-------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Plant height (cm) | | | | | |
| PBZ (SAC) | 10 | \(y^* = -123.99x^2 + 53.033x + 6.403\) | 99.89 | 0.22 | 12.12 |
| PBZ (SAC) | 20 | \(y^* = -87.595x^2 + 37.878x + 10.542\) | 96.82 | 0.22 | 14.64 |
| SAC (PBZ) | 0 | \(y^* = 0.0477x + 1.7287x + 4.0548\) | 81.19 | 18.12 | 11.61 |
| SAC (PBZ) | 0.1 | \(y^* = 0.0747x^2 + 2.5082x + 7.3493\) | 99.83 | 16.79 | 13.70 |
| SAC (PBZ) | 0.2 | \(y^* = 0.0614x^2 + 2.6522x + 8.6006\) | 85.03 | 18.42 | 27.64 |
| SAC (PBZ) | 0.3 | \(y^* = -0.0336x + 1.329x + 1.2756\) | 99.79 | 19.78 | 14.42 |
| SAC (PBZ) | 0.4 | \(y^* = 0.0472x^2 + 1.7851x - 5.3534\) | 100.00 | 18.91 | 11.54 |
| Number of mini-cuttings | | | | | |
| PBZ (SAC) | 10 | \(y^* = -118.84x^2 + 50.709x + 4.4984\) | 92.54 | 0.21 | 9.91 |
| PBZ (SAC) | 20 | \(y^* = -65.974x^2 + 28.162x + 7.8843\) | 79.19 | 0.21 | 10.89 |
| SAC (PBZ) | 0 | \(y^* = 0.3081x + 1.8264\) | 85.46 | 20.00 | 1.95 |
| SAC (PBZ) | 0.1 | \(y^* = -0.0689x + 2.2788x - 7.1521\) | 99.99 | 16.54 | 11.69 |
| SAC (PBZ) | 0.2 | \(y^* = 0.0602x^2 + 2.0293x - 6.4898\) | 74.96 | 16.85 | 10.61 |
| SAC (PBZ) | 0.3 | \(y^* = -0.0436x^2 + 1.4372x + 1.5547\) | 97.73 | 16.48 | 10.29 |
| SAC (PBZ) | 0.4 | \(y^* = 0.0325x^2 + 1.2965x - 4.1308\) | 97.42 | 19.95 | 8.8 |
| Number of roots | | | | | |
| PBZ (SAC) | 10 | \(y^* = 13.613x^2 - 4.4513x + 1.5423\) | 91.86 | 0.16 | 1.18 |
| PBZ (SAC) | 15 | \(y^* = 49.278x^2 - 15.164x + 2.5557\) | 95.92 | 0.15 | 1.39 |
| SAC (PBZ) | 0 | \(y^* = 0.2925x^2 + 1.4853\) | 99.53 | 20.00 | 4.36 |
| SAC (PBZ) | 0.1 | \(y^* = 0.208x - 1.1\) | 84.76 | 20.00 | 3.06 |
| SAC (PBZ) | 0.2 | \(y^* = 0.0271x^2 - 0.3421x + 1.2644\) | 93.68 | 6.31 | 0.18 |
| SAC (PBZ) | 0.3 | \(y^* = 0.2755x^2 - 1.4118\) | 99.96 | 20.00 | 4.10 |
| SAC (PBZ) | 0.4 | \(y^* = 0.0131x^2 + 0.6681x - 3.101\) | 98.95 | 25.50 | 5.42 |
| Number of sprouts | | | | | |
| PBZ (SAC) | 20 | \(y^* = -0.3566x + 1.1309\) | 61.22 | 0 | 1.13 |
| SAC (PBZ) | 0 | \(y^* = 0.0018x^2 - 0.0335x + 1.1324\) | 93.33 | 9.31 | 0.98 |
| SAC (PBZ) | 0.1 | \(y^* = 0.0056x^2 - 0.1669x + 2.1719\) | 94.53 | 14.90 | 0.93 |
| Number of green leaves | | | | | |
| PBZ (SAC) | 10 | \(y^* = 42.719x^2 - 18.968x + 6.3215\) | 66.99 | 0.22 | 4.22 |
| SAC (PBZ) | 0.2 | \(y^* = 0.2784x - 0.9893\) | 99.99 | 20.00 | 6.56 |
| SAC (PBZ) | 0.3 | \(y^* = 0.1233x + 3.5385\) | 78.12 | 20.00 | 6.00 |
| SAC (PBZ) | 0.4 | \(y^* = 0.0365x^2 - 1.0823x - 2.225\) | 82.06 | 14.91 | 5.84 |
| Number of senescent leaves | | | | | |
| PBZ (SAC) | 10 | \(y^* = -45.502x^2 + 17.871x + 2.7504\) | 91.11 | 0.20 | 4.50 |
| SAC (PBZ) | 0 | \(y^* = 0.2002x + 0.6675\) | 69.33 | 20.00 | 4.67 |
| SAC (PBZ) | 0.1 | \(y^* = 0.1934x + 1.9438\) | 99.00 | 20.00 | 5.81 |
| SAC (PBZ) | 0.2 | \(y^* = 0.0254x + 0.7795x - 2.0139\) | 51.18 | 15.34 | 3.96 |
| SAC (PBZ) | 0.3 | \(y^* = 0.0339x^2 + 0.9628x - 1.8461\) | 99.52 | 14.20 | 4.99 |
| SAC (PBZ) | 0.4 | \(y^* = 0.0322x^2 + 1.1049x - 4.8788\) | 96.41 | 17.16 | 4.60 |

** and * significant at 1 % and 5 % probability, respectively, by the F test of ANOVA.
Experiment III: Effect from different concentrations of paclobutrazol (PBZ) and sucrose (SUC) on in vitro conservation of the M. flabelifolia genotype

Table 5 illustrates the summary of the analysis of variance, where the interaction PBZ × SUC was significant for number of roots, number of green leaves and number of senescent leaves.

In relation to the plant height, number of mini-cuttings and shoots, the isolated SUC factor had significant effect. There was a variation from 9.07% (NS) to 48.49% (PH) in CV. Table 6 illustrates the polynomial regression models, in which we can observe the fitting of first and second degree models, with the coefficient of determination (R²) ranging from 52.80% for number of senescent leaves to 100% for number of green leaves and number of senescent leaves.

When analyzing the variables of plant height, number of mini-cuttings and number of shoots it was not possible to fit a significant model for the concentrations of SUC and PBZ.

As with the mean values of the other variables evaluated in this experiment, the metabolism reduction was decisive for the unviability of this species, making it necessary to conduct further studies involving other culture media and concentrations of PBZ and SUC. Faria et al. (2006), although able to fit regression models on in vitro conservation of passion-fruit vines (Passiflora giberti), also concluded that applying SUC to the culture medium is not necessary.

In contrast, Vieira et al. (2015) were able to fit an optimal SUC concentration that enabled the in vitro viability of Manihot esculenta plants. Hence, as reported by Souza et al. (2020), for each species there may be different responses when sucrose is added to the culture medium. It is also interesting to mention that, depending on the used concentration, sucrose may hinder formation and growth of the roots and shoots.

Several studies in the literature are found aiming to maintain minimum growth rates for in vitro conservation of germplasm. Among these is the research developed

Table 5. Summary of the analysis of variance for plant height (PH, in cm), number of mini-cuttings (NM), number of roots (NR), number of shoots (NS), number of green leaves (NGL) and number of senescent leaves (NSL) of the M. flabelifolia genotype, as a function of concentrations of paclobutrazol (PBZ) and sucrose (SUC).

| VF       | DoF | PH  | NM  | NR  | NS  | NGL | NSL |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| PBZ      | 4   | 0.43 ns | 0.16* | 0.04** | 0.04* | 1.10** | 0.32 ns |
| SUC      | 3   | 2.98* | 0.23* | 0.02 ns | 0.04* | 0.33 ns | 0.16 ns |
| PBZ x SUC | 11 | 0.40 ns | 0.07 ns | 0.05** | 0.02 ns | 0.33* | 0.33* |
| Error    | 137 | 0.65 | 0.07 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.15 | 0.14 |
| CV (%)   | 48.49 | 19.46 | 14.85 | 9.07 | 19.18 | 38.57 |
| Overall Mean | 1.66 | 1.39 | 0.04 | 1.12 | 1.66 | 0.60 |

ns = non-significant; ** and * significant at 1 and 5%, respectively, by the F test.

Table 6. Regression equations, coefficients of determination, optimum doses and estimated values of plant height (cm), number of mini-cuttings, number of sprouts, number of green leaves and number of senescent leaves of the Manihot flabelifolia genotype, as a function of concentrations of paclobutrazol (PBZ) and sucrose (SUC).

| Interactions | Doses | Equations | R² (%) | Optimal doses | Estimated values |
|--------------|-------|-----------|--------|---------------|-----------------|
| SAC          | ♂♂♂♀♀ | \(\hat{y} = 1.64\) | 1.64*** | 0               | 0               |
| SAC          | ♂♂♂♀♀ | \(\hat{y} = 1.35\) | 1.35*** | 0               | 0               |
| SAC (PBZ)    | 15    | \(\hat{y} = 3.5714x^2 - 1.9286x + 0.2214\) | 85.71 | 0.27 | 0.4               |
| SAC (PBZ)    | 20    | \(\hat{y} = 17.857x^2 - 11.071x + 1.6071\) | 93.33 | 0.31 | 0.11              |
| SAC (SUC)    | 0     | \(\hat{y} = 0.025x - 0.1667\) | 75.00 | 0 | 0.33              |
| SAC (PBZ)    | 0.0001| \(\hat{y} = 0.0071x^2 - 0.1357x + 0.5357\) | 93.55 | 9.56 | 0.11              |
| SAC (SUC)    | 0.0001| \(\hat{y} = 1.14\) | 1.14*** | 0               | 0               |
| SAC (PBZ)    | 0.0001| \(\hat{y} = 1.10\) | 1.10*** | 0               | 0               |
| SAC (SUC)    | 15    | \(\hat{y} = -8.125x + 6.0143\) | 81.52 | 0.4 | 6.01               |
| SAC (PBZ)    | 20    | \(\hat{y} = -71.29x^2 + 33.733x + 0.4756\) | 99.96 | 0.24 | 4.47               |
| SAC (PBZ)    | 0     | \(\hat{y} = -0.0658x^2 + 1.0958x + 2\) | 100.00 | 8.33 | 6.56               |
| SAC (PBZ)    | 0.1   | \(\hat{y} = -0.0326x^2 + 0.8186x - 0.1786\) | 94.00 | 12.44 | 4.91               |
| SAC (PBZ)    | 0.1   | \(\hat{y} = 12.464x^2 + 7.5588x + 1.3293\) | 52.80 | 0.3 | 0.18               |
| SAC (PBZ)    | 0.1   | \(\hat{y} = 40.417x^2 - 24.568x + 4.0625\) | 100.00 | 0.31 | 0.30               |
| SAC (PBZ)    | 0.1   | \(\hat{y} = 0.1292x^2 - 0.4306\) | 90.89 | 20 | 2.15               |
| SAC (PBZ)    | 0.1   | \(\hat{y} = 0.0246x^2 - 0.5537x + 3.1286\) | 87.76 | 11.25 | 0.13               |

** and * significant at 1% and 5% probability, respectively, by the F test of ANOVA; * based on the mean of observed.
by Wu et al. (2019), who, working with lilies (*Lilium* sp.), obtained positive responses regarding the retardation of plant material development. Silva et al. (2019) also reported satisfactory results on *in vitro* conservation of “catingueira” (*Poincianella pyramidalis*), recommending using culture media supplemented with SUC and PBZ for up to 240 days, without subculture.

Due to the importance of maintaining and conserving genetic resources, the need for studies directed to preservation of wild *Manihot* species is evident, since there are no reports of research of this nature in the literature. Moreover, in face of the divergent results, the morphogenic response is expressively influenced by the species, demonstrating the need for further studies aiming at a better adequacy of the protocols for each species.

**Conclusions**

For the species *M. pseudoglaziovii*, the interaction of 0.1 mg L\(^{-1}\) paclobutrazol and 5 g L\(^{-1}\) sucrose promoted a significant effect on its *in vitro* conservation. While for the species *M. violacea*, the concentration of 10 g L\(^{-1}\) sucrose and 0.2 mg L\(^{-1}\) PBZ is the most indicated for its conservation. Lastly, for *M. flabelifolia*, the used concentrations of SUC and PBZ were not efficient for its *in vitro* conservation.

**Compliance with Ethical Standards**

**Author contributions:** Conceptualization: AAA, CASL, MJSC; Data curation: DMSS; Formal analysis: DMSS, CASS, MJSC; Funding acquisition: ASS, CASL; Investigation: JFS, DMSS, KCFS; Methodology: DMSS, ASS, CASL, MJSC; Project administration: DMSS; Resources: KCFS, ASS; Software: CASL, MJSC; Supervision: ASS, CASL, MJSC; Validation: JFS; Visualization: JFS, DMSS, KCFC; Writing – original draft: JFS, DMSS, KCFS; Writing – review & editing: ASS, CASL, MJSC.

**Conflict of Interest:** The authors declare no conflict of interest.

**Funding:** We thank the Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento Pessoal de Nível Superior (CAPES) for the financial assistance to the scholarship. To Embrapa Cassava and Tropical Fruits, for providing all infrastructure and financial support to conduct the study.

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