

## DESCRIPTION

### **CULTURE MEDIA AND PROCESS FOR IMPROVED ISOLATION AND MAINTENANCE OF *TERFEZIA* SPP. MYCELIUM CULTURES**

#### **Technical domain**

The present invention relates to a culture media and to a process for improved isolation and maintenance of mycelium cultures of "desert truffles" included within the genus *Terfezia*, the most species rich of all of desert truffle genera. Cultivation of these ectomycorrhizal *Ascomycota* implies the co-culture of both fungal symbiont and plant host in sterile or semi-sterile conditions. However, isolation and maintenance of *Terfezia* spp. pure cultures can be challenging. Moreover, many strains are unable to be sub-cultured, and so far, the few successful attempts, mainly with *Terfezia* spp. from alkaline soils, were found to grow much too slowly to produce adequate amounts of mycelial inoculum in conventional culture media and conditions.

The culture media and process of the present invention improves the isolation rates and enhances *Terfezia* spp. hyphal proliferation in a reliable and reproducible way. Therefore, the present invention lays in the technical domain of biochemistry and microbiology, in particular to a process and composition to produce desert truffle's mycelium that can be used in several industries such as pharmaceutical, cosmetic, food and agriculture.