



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

***ESTABLISHMENT OF TISSUE CULTURE AND EVALUATION OF
BIOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES OF JARUM TUJUH BILAH
(PERESKIA BLEO KUNTH)***

NORRIZAH JAAFAR SIDIK

FBSB 2008 3



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in Fulfilment of the Requirement for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy**

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Chairman : Associate Professor Norihan Mohd. Saleh, PhD

Faculty : Biotechnology and Biomolecular Sciences

Pereskia bleo is a leafy cactus which belongs to Cactaceae family and it is commonly used among the traditional medicine practitioners to prevent or treat cancer by consuming the leaves. As there is lack of information available on this plant, this research was carried out to determine the biological activities in natural plants and tissue culture materials. In order to produce standardize plant material for secondary metabolite production, tissue culture systems for *Pereskia bleo* was initiated and established. *In vitro* plantlets and tissues of *Pereskia bleo* were micropropagated in order to provide enough uniform explants for further tissue culture work and for extraction. The highest number of sterile explants (65.6%) was observed using fungicide for 20 minutes followed by 20% Chlorox[®] for 10 minutes. The growth characteristics on different types of basal media containing plant growth regulators were analyzed for maximum production of biomass: plantlets, calli and cell suspension. The highest number of multiple shoots

(5.3 ± 0.5) was formed in MS basal medium supplemented with $2.22 \mu\text{M}$ BAP using shoot tips explants. Using node explants cultured onto MS supplemented with $8.88 \mu\text{M}$ BAP gave the highest number of multiple shoots (6.7 ± 0.58). Cell suspension growth was highest in MS basal media supplemented with $2.26 \mu\text{M}$ 2,4-D. Hairy root experiments revealed that both leaf and stem explants of *Pereskia bleo* were susceptible to all *Agrobacterium rhizogenes* (TR 105, LBA 9402, 8196, ATCC 15834) tested. Addition of acetosyringone in the *Agrobacterium rhizogenes* culture increased the transformation frequencies of hairy root in *Pereskia bleo*. Results from brine shrimp lethality test showed no toxicity of the *Pereskia bleo* extracts occurred. The petroleum ether, chloroform and methanol leaf extracts showed strong *in vitro* antiproliferative activities (IC_{50} : $6.5 - 25.4 \mu\text{g/ml}$) for MCF-7 (human hormone-dependent breast cancer cell line) and (IC_{50} : $19.3 - 26.8 \mu\text{g/ml}$) for MDA-MB-231 (human hormone non-dependent breast cancer cell line). The IC_{50} value against HL-60 (human leukemia cell line) between 6.91 and $9.98 \mu\text{g/ml}$ for chloroform, petroleum ether and methanol extracts. Non-cytotoxic activity towards the non-tumour 3T3 mouse fibroblast indicated that the extracts exhibited selective mode of inhibition between tumor and non-tumor cells. The findings of antioxidative and antiproliferative activities of the plant extracts *in vitro* suggested that this species does contain antioxidant and cytotoxic compounds. The results obtained support the use of this species in traditional medicine for the prevention and treatment of cancer.

Abstrak disertasi yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia
bagi memenuhi keperluan ijazah Doktor Falsafah

**PEMBANGUNAN KULTUR TISU DAN KAJIAN AKTIVITI
BIOLOGI JARUM TUJUH BILAH
(*PERESKIA BLEO* KUNTH)**

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Pereskia bleo adalah kaktus berdaun daripada famili Cactaceae dan kebiasaannya digunakan oleh pengamal perubatan tradisional bagi mencegah dan mengubati penyakit kanser dengan cara memakan daunnya. Memandangkan tiada kajian dibuat ke atas spesies *Pereskia bleo*, penyelidikan ini telah dijalankan untuk mengenalpasti aktiviti biologi dan kultur tisu tumbuhan tersebut. Sistem kultur tisu *Pereskia bleo* dijalankan bagi memperolehi bahan tumbuhan yang piawai untuk penghasilan metabolit sekunder. Mikropropagasi plantlet *in vitro* dan tisu *Pereskia bleo* dilakukan bagi memperolehi eksplan yang uniform bagi kerja kultur tisu tumbuhan dan seterusnya untuk ekstraksi. Bilangan tertinggi eksplan yang steril (65.6%) diperolehi dengan penggunaan fungisid selama 20 minit diikuti penggunaan 20% Chlorox[®] selama 10 minit. Ciri-ciri pertumbuhan di dalam medium basal yang mengandungi hormon tumbuhan berlainan dianalisis untuk penghasilan biomassa plantlet, kalus dan sel suspensi yang maksimum.

Bilangan pucuk berganda yang paling tinggi (5.3 ± 0.5) diperolehi daripada medium asas MS yang mengandungi $2.22 \mu\text{M}$ BAP menggunakan eksplan hujung pucuk. Manakala dari eksplan nodal, bilangan pucuk berganda yang tertinggi (6.7 ± 0.58) diperolehi daripada medium asas MS yang mengandungi $8.88 \mu\text{M}$ BAP. Pertumbuhan sel ampaian adalah tertinggi dalam medium asas MS yang mengandungi $2.26 \mu\text{M}$ 2,4-D. Eksperimen menunjukkan kedua-dua eksplan daun dan batang *Pereskia bleo* mengeluarkan akar rerambut menggunakan kesemua strain *Agrobacterium rhizogenes* (TR 105, LBA 9402, 8196, ATCC 15834). Penambahan acetosringone di dalam kultur *Agrobacterium rhizogenes* telah meningkatkan frekuensi transformasi akar rerambut. Keputusan menggunakan bioasai ujian kematian anak udang menunjukkan tiada toksikiti terhadap ekstrak *Pereskia bleo*. Ekstrak daun petroleum eter, kloroform dan metanol menunjukkan aktiviti antiproliferatif yang tinggi terhadap sel kanser payu dara iaitu IC_{50} bernilai $6.5 - 25.4 \mu\text{g/ml}$ untuk sel MCF-7 dan IC_{50} bernilai $19.3 - 26.8 \mu\text{g/ml}$ untuk sel MDA-MB-231. Tiada aktiviti antiproliferatif terhadap sel normal 3T3. Ini menunjukkan ekstrak *Pereskia bleo* adalah selektif terhadap perencatan di antara sel kanser dan sel normal. Keputusan pemerhatian secara *in vitro* menunjukkan ekstrak *Pereskia bleo* ini mengandungi kompaun antioksidan dan sitotoksik. Keputusan kajian menyokong penggunaan spesies ini dalam perubatan tradisional untuk mencegah dan mengubati penyakit kanser.

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I certify that an Examination Committee has met on date of to conduct the final examination of Norrizah binti Jaafar Sidik on her Doctor of Philosophy thesis entitled “Establishment of Tissue Culture and Evaluation of Biological Activities of *Jarum Tujuh Bilah (Pereskia bleo* Kunth) in accordance with Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Act 1980 and Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Regulations 1981. The Committee recommends that the candidate be awarded the relevant degree. Members of the Examination Committee are as follows:

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the thesis is based on my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously or concurrently submitted for any other degree at UPM or other institutions.

NORRIZAH BINTI JAAFAR SIDIK

Date: 5 May 2008

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
ABSTRACT	ii
ABSTRAK	iv
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	vi
APPROVAL	vii
DECLARATION	ix
LIST OF TABLES	xiii
LIST OF FIGURES	xv
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xviii

CHAPTER

1	INTRODUCTION	
1.1	Background of the study	1
2	LITERATURE REVIEW	
2.1	Plant Biodiversity	7
2.2	<i>Pereskia bleo</i>	12
	2.2.1 The biological aspect of <i>Pereskia bleo</i>	12
	2.2.2 Medicinal value of <i>Pereskia bleo</i>	15
2.3	Establishment of <i>In Vitro</i> Culture Technology	16
	2.3.1 <i>In Vitro</i> Technology	16
	2.3.2 Callus and Cell Suspension	21
	2.3.3 Hairy Root Cultures	25
2.4	Plant Growth Regulators (PGRs)	29
	2.4.1 Auxins	30
	2.4.2 Cytokinins	31
2.5	Plant Natural Product	33
	2.6.1 Primary metabolites	34
	2.6.2 Secondary metabolites	35
2.6	Diseases associated with oxidative stress	40
2.7	Phytochemical extraction process	44
2.8	Biological assay in phytochemical research	46
	2.8.1 Brine Shrimp Lethality Test (BSTL)	46
	2.8.2 Antioxidant Activity Assay	47
	2.8.3 Free Radical Scavenging Activity Assay	50
	2.8.4 Antiproliferative Assay	52



3	<i>IN VITRO PROPAGATION OF Pereskia bleo</i>	
3.1	Introduction	56
3.2	Materials and Methods	57
	3.2.1 Plant materials	57
	3.2.2 Media preparation	58
	3.2.3 Explants sterilization	58
	3.2.4 Culture and maintenance of explants on different basal media	60
	3.2.5 Induction of shoot	60
	3.2.6 Statistical analysis	61
3.3	Results and Discussion	61
	3.3.1 Sterilization of explants	61
	3.3.2 Effect of different composition of basal medium on propagation of <i>Pereskia bleo</i>	63
	3.3.3 Effect of BAP on shoot development of <i>Pereskia bleo</i>	68
3.4	Conclusion	78
4	CALLUS INDUCTION AND CELL SUSPENSION INITIATION IN <i>Pereskia bleo</i>	
4.1	Introduction	79
4.2	Materials and Methods	81
	4.2.1 Plant materials	81
	4.2.2 Media preparation	81
	4.2.3 Callus induction	81
	4.2.4 Proliferation and maintenance of calli	82
	4.2.5 Morphology analysis	82
	4.2.6 Growth curve of the callus culture	83
	4.2.7 Initiation of cell suspension cultures	83
	4.2.8 Subculture and maintenance of cell of cell suspension	84
	4.2.9 Assessment of different factors on cell suspension culture	84
	4.2.10 Determination of cell viability	86
	4.2.11 Determination of growth rate of <i>Pereskia bleo</i> cell suspension cultures.	87
	4.2.12 Statistical Analysis	87
4.3	Results and Discussion	88
	4.3.1 Assessment of callus growth from stem explant in different media	88
	4.3.2 Assessment of callus growth from leaves explant in different media	100
	4.3.3 Cell suspension induction of <i>Pereskia bleo</i>	106
	4.3.4 Effect of different sucrose concentration on cell suspension cultures.	111

	4.3.5	Growth rate of suspension culture	120
4.4		Conclusion	124
5		INDUCTION OF HAIRY ROOT CULTURE IN <i>Pereskia bleo</i>	
5.1		Introduction	126
5.2		Materials and Methods	128
	5.2.1	Plant material	128
	5.2.2	Growth of <i>Agrobacterium rhizogenes</i> strain	129
	5.2.3	Hairy root induction cultures	129
	5.2.4	Maintenance of hairy root cultures	130
	5.2.5	Statistical analysis	130
5.3		Result and Discussion	130
5.4		Conclusion	142
6		BIOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF EXTRACTS OF NATURAL PLANT AND IN VITRO CULTURE OF <i>Pereskia bleo</i>	
6.1		Introduction	143
6.2		Material and Method	145
	6.2.1	Preparation of plant materials	145
	6.2.2	Extraction of plant material	146
	6.2.3	Determination of toxicity activity using brine shrimp lethality test (BSLT)	147
	6.2.4	Determination of antioxidant activity	150
	6.2.5	Determination of free radical scavenging activity	153
	6.2.6	Determination of antiproliferative activity	154
	6.2.7	Statistical analysis	159
6.3		Results and Discussion	159
	6.3.1	Brine shrimp lethality test (BSLT)	159
	6.3.2	Determination of antioxidative activities	160
	6.3.3	Antiproliferative activities	167
6.4		Conclusion	182
7		SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION	184
		REFERENCES	197
		APPENDICES	223
		BIODATA OF THE STUDENT	237
		ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES FROM THE THESIS	238

LIST OF TABLE

Table		Page
3.1	Ion content of MS, B5 and SH basal media (in mmol l ⁻¹)	65
3.2	The effect of basal medium on shoot and root formation and shoot elongation after 8 weeks in culture using mature seed explants.	69
3.3	The effect of various concentrations of BAP in different basal media on shoot and root formation and shoot elongation after 8 weeks in culture using mature seed explants.	70
3.4	Effect of various concentrations of BAP on shoot formation and elongation in <i>Pereskia bleo</i> after 8 weeks culture using shoot tip explants.	74
3.5	Effect of various concentrations of BAP on shoot formation and elongation in <i>Pereskia bleo</i> using node explants.	77
4.1	Effect of different concentrations of 2,4-D on callus induction from stem explants of <i>Pereskia bleo</i> after 30 days culture.	92
4.2	Effect of different concentrations of 2,4-D on callus proliferation from stem explants of <i>Pereskia bleo</i> after 60 days of culture.	93
4.3	Effect of different concentrations of NAA on callus induction from stem explants of <i>Pereskia bleo</i> after 30 days culture.	96
4.4	Effect of different concentrations of IAA on callus induction from stem explants of <i>Pereskia bleo</i> after 30 days.	98
4.5	Effect of different concentration of 2,4-D, NAA and IAA or BAP on callus induction from stem explants of <i>Pereskia bleo</i> after 30 days.	99
4.6	Effect of different concentrations of 2,4-D on callus induction from leaf explants of <i>Pereskia bleo</i> after 30 days	101
4.7	Effect of different concentrations of NAA on callus induction from leaf explants of <i>Pereskia bleo</i> after 30 days.	101



4.8	Effect of different concentrations of IAA on callus induction from leaf explants of <i>Pereskia bleo</i> after 30 days	102
4.9	Effect of different concentrations of auxin and cytokinin on callus induction from leaf explants of <i>Pereskia bleo</i> after 30 days.	102
4.10	Effect of different types of auxin and cytokinin on callus proliferation from leaf explants of <i>Pereskia bleo</i> after 60 days.	104
4.11	Effect of different concentrations of 2,4-D in MS medium on cell suspension fresh weight of <i>Pereskia bleo</i> after 30 days of culture.	107
4.12	Effect of sucrose concentrations on cell suspension cell viability and fresh weight of <i>Pereskia bleo</i> after 4 weeks cultured.	113
5.1	Putative hairy root appearance of leaves and stem explants of <i>Pereskia bleo</i> using four different strains of <i>Agrobacterium rhizogenes</i> .	132
5.2	Frequency of transformation of leaves and stem explants of <i>Pereskia bleo</i> using four different strains of <i>Agrobacterium rhizogenes</i> .	133
6.1	Brine shrimp toxicity test of crude extracts of natural plant (leaves) and callus of <i>Pereskia bleo</i>	162
6.2	DPPH radical scavenging activities (IC ₅₀) of various plants extracts of <i>Pereskia bleo</i> .	166
6.3	Antiproliferative activities against various cell lines and brine shrimp lethality test (BSLT) of crude extracts of <i>Pereskia bleo</i> natural plant	180
6.4	Antiproliferative activities against various cell lines and brine shrimp lethality test (BSLT) of crude extracts of callus from stem explant of <i>Pereskia bleo</i>	181

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure		Page
2.1	<i>Pereskia bleo</i> (A) Plant (B) Flower (C) Fruit (D) Seed	14
2.2	Reaction between DPPH radical and antioxidant (RH=antioxidant)	51
3.1	Efficiency of different types of disinfectant explants for <i>Pereskia bleo</i> shoot tips explants.	62
3.2	Seedling development of <i>Pereskia bleo</i> cultured on MS, B5 and SH with different concentrations of BAP after 8 weeks cultured.	73
3.3	Shoots development of <i>Pereskia bleo</i> cultured onto MS with different concentrations of BAP after 8 weeks using shoot tip explants.	75
3.4	Shoots development of <i>Pereskia bleo</i> cultured onto MS with different concentrations of BAP after 8 weeks using node explants.	77
4.1	Measuring settled cell volume of suspension culture of <i>Pereskia bleo</i> in MS supplemented with 26 μ M 2,4-D after 3 weeks of culture using side arm flask.	89
4.2	Growth curve of callus induced from stem explants of <i>Pereskia bleo</i> in MS medium supplemented with different concentrations of 2,4-D.	95
4.3	Growth rate of callus cultures from leaf explants of <i>Pereskia bleo</i> in MS media containing different cytokinin and auxins.	105
4.4 (i)	Microscopic observation of cell suspension in MS medium supplemented with 2.26 μ M 2,4-D and stained with methylene blue.	108
4.4(ii)	Microscopic observation of cell suspension in MS + 4.52 μ M 2,4-D and stained with methylene blue.	108
4.4(iii)	Microscopic observation of cell suspension in MS + 13.57 μ M 2,4-D and stained with methylene blue	109
4.4(iv)	Microscopic observation of cell suspension in MS +	109



	22.60 μM 2,4-D, and stained with methylene blue.	
4.5	Cell suspension of <i>Pereskia bleo</i> .	110
4.6(i)	Cell suspension in MS + 2.26 μM 2,4-D medium supplemented with 4% sucrose and magnification after 1 month culture.	115
4.6(ii)	Cell suspension in MS + 2.26 μM 2,4-D medium supplemented with 3% sucrose after 1 month culture.	116
4.6(iii)	Cell suspension in MS + 2.26 μM 2,4-D medium supplemented with 2% sucrose after 1 month culture.	117
4.6(iv)	Cell suspension in MS + 2.26 μM 2,4-D medium supplemented with 1% sucrose after 1 month culture.	118
4.6(v)	Cell suspension in MS + 2.26 μM 2,4-D medium supplemented with 0.5% sucrose after 1 month culture.	129
4.7	Cell suspension in MS + 2.26 μM 2,4-D medium supplemented with 0.5% sucrose after 1 month culture.	122
4.8	The growth curve of cell suspension of <i>Pereskia bleo</i> initiated from stem explants in MS supplemented with different concentration of 2,4-D.	123
5.1	Induction of hairy roots formation on the surface of infected leaf explants of (A) <i>Tobacum nicotiana</i> (positive control) (B) <i>Pereskia bleo</i> with <i>Agrobacterium rhizogenes</i> ATCC 15834 after 5 months on culture	135
5.2	Induction of hairy root appeared at the cut midrib and cut edge of the leaf explants of <i>Pereskia bleo</i> infected with different <i>Agrobacterium rhizogenes</i> strain.	136
5.4	Induction of hairy root using <i>Agrobacterium rhizogenes</i> ATCC 15834 on stem explants of <i>Pereskia bleo</i> .	137
6.1	Brine shrimp hatching box	148
6.2	Antioxidative activity of various extracts of <i>Pereskia bleo</i> leaves measured using FTC method.	163
6.3	Antioxidant activity of various extracts of <i>Pereskia bleo</i> leaf measured using TBA method.	164

6.4	Inhibition of MCF-7 cell line by extracts of <i>Pereskia bleo</i> leaf	169
6.5	Inhibition of MDA-MB-231 cell line by extracts of <i>Pereskia bleo</i> leaf	169
6.6	Microscopic analysis of breast cancer cell lines MCF-7	171
6.7	Microscopic analysis of human breast cancer cell line MDA-MB cell line	172
6.8	Inhibition of HL-60 leukemia cell line by extracts of <i>Pereskia bleo</i> leaf	173
6.9	Antiproliferative activities of crude extracts of <i>Pereskia bleo</i> leaf against non-tumour 3T3 cell lines	173
6.10	Microscopic analysis of HL-60 cell line	174
6.11	Microscopic analyses of normal cell line (3T3)	175
6.12	Inhibition of HL-60 leukemia cell-lines crude extracts of <i>Pereskia bleo</i> stem	177
6.13	Antiproliferative activities of crude extracts of callus of <i>Pereskia bleo</i> (stem explant) against MCF-7 cell-lines.	178
6.14	Antiproliferative activities of crude extracts of <i>Pereskia bleo</i> stem against MDA-MB-231 cell-lines.	178
6.15	Antiproliferative activities of crude extracts of callus of <i>Pereskia bleo</i> (stem explant) against 3T3 cell-lines.	179

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

IAA	Indolacetic acid
2,4-D	2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic acid
<i>A.rhizogenes</i>	<i>Agrobacterium rhizogenes</i>
ANOVA	Analysis of variance
B5	Gamborg medium
BAP	6-Benzylaminopurine
°C	Degree celsius
DMSO	dimethyl sulfoxide
DNA	Deoxyribonucleotic acid
EDTA	Ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid
FTC	Ferric thiocyanate
H ⁺	Hydrogen ion
H ₂ O	Water
H ₂ O ₂	Hydrogen peroxide
HCl	Hydrochloride acid
IAA	Indole-3-Acetic Acid
IBA	Indole-3-Butric Acid
K ⁺	Potassium ion
KI	Potassium iodide
Kinetin	6-Furfurylaminopurine
L•	lipid free radical
LOO•	lipid peroxy radical



L	Liter
LS	Linsmaier and Skoog
MS	Murashige and Skoog
MW	Molecular weight
NAA	Naphthalene acetic acid
•OH	Hydroxyl radical
O ₂ •	Superoxide radical
OD	Optical density
Ri	Root inducing
rpm	Revolution per minute
T-DNA	Transferable –DNA
T _L	Left border of T-DNA
T _R	Right border of T-DNA
tms	transmembrane segments
w/v	Weight per volume
Vir	Virulence
v/v	Volume per volume

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

The plant kingdom represents an enormous reservoir of chemical compounds. Malaysia possesses an extremely rich biodiversity and these provide numerous plants with medicinal value. In developing countries like Malaysia, medicinal plants continue to be the main source of medication. In recent years, traditional systems of medicine have become a topic of global importance. Malaysia is a unique country because of the presence of three active streams of traditional systems of medicine which are indigenous Malay, Ayurvedic (Indian) and the Oriental (Chinese). Many of the medicinal plants have been scientifically evaluated for their possible medical applications. Researchers can take a random approach to plant selection or can limit their search to plants of a certain species or genus (the taxonomic approach), plants that contain specific chemicals (the chemotaxonomic approach), or plants that are already known as traditional medical cures (the ethnobotanical approach). Current developments in phytotechnology, phytochemistry and biotechnology have facilitated rapid progress in natural product research. Bioactive compounds extracted from plants can be used as stimulants, hallucinogens, insecticides, poisons, therapeutic agents, food additives, pesticides, dyes, flavors, cosmetics and pharmaceuticals.



The biological activities of the secondary metabolites can be tested using different kinds of bioassays. Bioassay is a biological testing procedure for estimating the concentration of active substance in the extract. A large number of plant secondary metabolites have been shown to possess antioxidative and anticancer properties. As an example, a new anticancer drug, taxol, is derived from the bark of *Taxus brevifolia*. Taxol is a complex diterpene alkaloid known due to its unique mode of action on the microtubular cell system (Jordan and Wilson, 1995). There are many bioassay systems to evaluate the plant chemicals such as *in vitro* antimicrobial, antiproliferative, antioxidant and radical scavenging test (Attaur-Rahman and Choudhary, 2001). Over the last few decades, biological assays (bioassays) have become more important to an effective quality control program especially in biopharmaceutical development. *In vitro* bioassay systems are becoming more popular on the grounds of speed, reproducibility, ethics and convenience as opposed to the *in vivo* animal models, which are expensive, time consuming and ethically sensitive.

Traditionally, plants have been collected for medicinal use from wild areas. In natural product research, the presence of large amount of plant biomass is necessary to provide enough bioactive compounds from the plant tissue. This presents an unfeasible solution due to the lack of reliable and abundant supply of the plant material. Natural habitats for medicinal plant are disappearing fast and together with environmental instabilities, it is increasingly difficult to acquire plant-derived compounds. This has prompted industries, as well as scientists to



consider the possibilities of using cell cultures as an alternative supply for the production of plant natural products (Dicosmo and Misawa, 1995). Plant cell cultures have the potential of providing a low cost route to numerous plant derived natural products that are very expensive to synthesize chemically or that occur naturally at very low concentration.

During the past few decades, tissue culture techniques have been manipulated for many purposes such as for the improvement of plants growth, secondary metabolites production and biological activities and transformation. A significant advance in plant tissue culture techniques have led to the use of callus and cell suspension culture (undifferentiated cells) of some plant species for the study of biological activities and production of valuable secondary metabolites (Mulabagal and Tsay, 2004; Bestoso *et al.*, 2006). Cell suspension cultures have been sought to deal with problems of low concentrations secondary metabolites in whole plants, like artemisinin (Basile *et al.*, 1993) and paclitaxel (Christen *et al.*, 1991; Luo *et al.*, 2001).

Several widely commercial medicinal plants in Malaysia such as *Eurycoma longifolia*, *Centella asiatica* and *Morinda citrifolia* had been successful cultured and their secondary metabolites and biological activities were analyzed (Ali *et al.*, 2000; Jasril *et al.*, 2003; Maziah, 2005). Technology for large-scale plant cell cultures has been demonstrated in Japan with the production of shikonin by

Mitsui Chemicals Industry Ltd., and production of ginseng saponins by Nitto Denko Co. (Ushiyama, 1991).

Tissue culture is the technique of maintaining plant tissue in an artificial medium *in vitro* under control condition. Propagation of plants through tissue culture has become an important and popular technique. The continuous supply of sterile plantlets will overcome the contamination problem and reduce the time for sterilization process. Tissues from various organs such as stem and leaf of the axenic plantlets can be induced to form callus. Callus tissue can serve as an experimental system to investigate the biological activities using specific bioassays. However, many factors contribute to the ability of a specific tissue to form callus such as medium and plant growth regulators. At present, researchers aim to produce substances with antitumor, antiviral, hypoglycaemic, anti-inflammatory and antimicrobes through tissue culture technology. However, establishment of tissue culture system is required prior to further exploration of the biosynthetic capabilities of various cell cultures.

In vitro propagation of medicinal plants with bioactive principles and cell culture methodologies for selective metabolite production is found to be highly useful for commercial production of medicinally important compounds. The increased use of plant cell culture systems in recent years is perhaps due to an improved understanding of the secondary metabolite pathway in economically important plants. A continuation and intensified efforts in this field will lead to controllable

