

***DEVELOPMENT OF IN VITRO* PROPAGATION  
OF *Dimorphorchis lowii* (ORCHIDACEAE)  
THROUGH SEMI-SOLID AND LIQUID  
CULTURE SYSTEMS**

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## ABSTRACT

*Dimorphorchis lowii* with its spectacular dimorphic flowers is well known to orchid enthusiasts. This species belongs to Vandaeae tribe and Aeridinae subtribe. Like most of the other endemic orchids in Borneo island, this species is facing combined threats from habitat loss, habitat degradation, and problems in viable seed production and inefficient conventional vegetative propagation. Therefore *in vitro* propagation offers an important measure for multiplication and conservation of this species. In this study, protocols for *in vitro* propagation of *D. lowii* through semi-solid and liquid systems were developed. The effects of basal media ( $\frac{1}{2}$ MS, MS,  $\frac{1}{2}$ KC, KC, VW, and Mitra), plant growth regulators (KIN, BAP, TDZ, 2,4-D, NAA, IBA, and IAA), complex additives (banana homogenate, coconut water, tomato juice, peptone, and yeast extract), carbon sources (fructose, glucose, and sucrose), light and dark photoperiods (16-hr light, 24-hr dark, and 24-hr light), and type of leaf segments (leaf tip, middle, and leaf base) on callus induction from leaf explant; protocorm-like-bodies (PLBs) proliferation from callus and shoot development; PLBs proliferation in liquid shake flask culture; shoot multiplication and rooting were investigated. The effect of immersion time on PLB proliferation in temporary immersion bioreactor systems (RITA<sup>®</sup> and twin-flask (BIT<sup>®</sup>) systems was also investigated. Plantlets were subjected to photoautotrophic and photoheterotrophic conditions prior acclimatization process to study their effects on the survival percentage. Callus induction from leaf tip explant was triggered when half-strength MS medium was used as basal medium and cultures were incubated under 24-hr dark photoperiod. However, the percentage of callus formation was very low at only  $2.00\% \pm 1.47$ . TDZ at 3.0 mg/L with NAA at 0.046 mg/L could increase percentage of callus formation. Sucrose at 2.0% (w/v) showed more favourable result with the callus formation at  $42.00\% \pm 9.60$ . Leaf tip segment exhibited highest potential in callus formation with the percentage of  $50.00\% \pm 20.50$ . KC medium was the most suitable for PLB proliferation and development, yielding the highest percentage of survival at  $36.00\% \pm 16.52$  and  $5.83 \pm 1.95$  new PLBs per proliferated explant. Number of new PLBs was increased to  $8.38 \pm 2.45$  when 2.0 mg/L TDZ was supplemented in KC medium with  $60.00\% \pm 24.47$  PLBs produced shoots. NAA with TDZ at 2.0 mg/L in combination enhanced the number of new PLBs to  $10.53 \pm 4.50$  with  $76.00\% \pm 23.14$  PLBs developed shoots. Addition of 15% (v/v) coconut water in KC medium increased the number of new PLBs to  $16.88 \pm 6.52$  and  $70.00\% \pm 42.02$  developed shoots. Sucrose at 2.0% (w/v) presented the best results producing  $11.55 \pm 5.63$  new PLBs with  $72.00\% \pm 16.20$  produced  $10.22 \pm 6.17$  shoots. The most favourable liquid medium for PLB proliferation in liquid culture system was KC medium with  $52.00\% \pm 25.88$  survival. The percentage of survived explants was increased to  $96.00\% \pm 5.48$  producing  $5.13 \pm 1.63$  new PLBs when 3.0 mg/L TDZ was supplemented in the medium. Auxin was not suitable for PLBs proliferation when applied alone. Complex additive peptone at 0.2% (w/v) was found to be the best in promoting the formation of new PLB with  $11.70 \pm 5.01$ . PLB proliferation at  $86.00\% \pm 10.35$  was obtained when sucrose at 1.0% (w/v) added to the medium. Further study to compare the use of complex additive peptone at 0.2% (w/v) and PGR TDZ at 3.0 mg/L to optimize PLB proliferation under light and dark photoperiod was carried out. Peptone was found to stimulate PLBs proliferation

with  $84.00\% \pm 37.03$  under 16-hr light photoperiod but 24-hr light photoperiod was favourable in terms of number of new PLBs produced with  $6.92 \pm 3.08$  per explant. In the temporary immersion bioreactor systems, the RITA<sup>®</sup> system was favourable than the twin-flask (BIT<sup>®</sup>) system by producing  $66.00\% \pm 38.15$  of PLB proliferation with  $12.56 \pm 3.46$  new PLBs per proliferated explant when cultures were immersed for 30 min per 6-hr per day. Shoot multiplication was enhanced when 2.0 mg/L KIN was supplemented in the medium, producing  $5.05 \pm 2.01$  shoots per explant. The use of 15% (v/v) coconut water as complex additive promoted multiplication by two-fold producing  $13.83 \pm 6.12$  shoots per explant. Sucrose at 2.0% (w/v) showed favourable result generating  $4.03 \pm 3.16$  shoots per explant. KC medium was found to be the best medium, yielding  $4.69 \pm 3.93$  shoots per explant. Root formation was improved when 1.0 mg/L IAA combined with 0.5 mg/L IBA were supplemented in the medium, producing  $1.93 \pm 0.96$  roots per explant. The use of 15% (v/v) coconut water as complex additive promoted root formation by almost two-fold yielding  $3.00 \pm 1.44$  roots per explant. Glucose at 2.0% (w/v) showed favourable result, producing  $1.90 \pm 1.14$  roots per explant and KC medium was better used as basal medium generating  $3.00 \pm 1.44$  roots per explant. In acclimatization, well-developed rooted plantlets were subjected to photoautotrophic and photoheterotrophic in *in vitro* conditions. After 60 days, plantlets were transferred to the potting mixture containing coco peat, sphagnum moss and charcoal in the ratio of 1:1:1. Higher survival rate of plantlets was obtained in plantlets that were subjected to photoheterotrophic condition with  $78.00\% \pm 41.48$  survival percentage after 60 days of acclimatization. It can be concluded that methods for *in vitro* propagation using various explants were successfully developed *via* semi-solid medium. Liquid medium also provided an alternative for PLB proliferation especially in TIBS using RITA system. Therefore *in vitro* propagation can be used as an alternative to propagate *D. lowii* for mass propagation.

## ABSTRAK

### **PEMBANGUNAN PROPAGASI IN VITRO *Dimorphorchis lowii* (ORCHIDACEAE) MELALUI SISTEM MEDIA SEPARA-PEPEJAL DAN MEDIA CECAIR**

*Dimorphorchis lowii* dengan dua jenis bunga yang luar biasa cantiknya digemari ramai oleh para pengemar orchid. Orkid ini termasuk dalam 'tribe' Vandaeae dan 'subtribe' Aeridinae. Sama seperti orkid endemik yang lain yang terdapat di kepulauan Borneo, spesies ini mengalami pelbagai ancaman daripada kehilangan habitat, penyusutan habitat dan masalah di dalam penghasilan biji benih yang berkeupayaan dan pembiakan melalui kaedah propagasi konvensional adalah tidak efisien. Oleh itu, propagasi in vitro menawarkan teknik yang penting untuk penggandaan dan konservasi orkid ini. Di dalam kajian ini, protokol untuk propagasi in vitro orkid *Dimorphorchis lowii* melalui sistem media separa-pepejal dan cecair telah dibangunkan. Kesan media ( $\frac{1}{2}$ MS, MS,  $\frac{1}{2}$ KC, KC, V&W, dan Mitra), pengawalatur pertumbuhan (KIN, BAP, TDZ, 2,4-D, NAA, IBA, dan IAA), kompleks aditif (air kelapa, jus tomato, homogenat pisang, pepton, dan ekstrak yis), sumber karbon (fruktosa, glukosa, sukrosa), cahaya (16 jam cerah, 24 jam gelap, dan 24 jam cerah), dan jenis segmen eksplan daun (hujung daun, bahagian tengah, bahagian pangkal) terhadap pengaruh kalus dari eksplan daun; proliferasi jasad seperti protokom (JSP) daripada kalus dan perkembangan pucuk; proliferasi JSP di dalam media cecair, penggandaan pucuk, dan pengakaran telah dikaji. Kesan masa rendaman terhadap proliferasi JSP di dalam sistem rendaman sementara (RITA<sup>®</sup> dan flask berkembar atau BIT<sup>®</sup>) juga telah dikaji. Anak pokok dirawat secara fotoautotropik dan fotoheterotropik sebelum proses aklimatisasi untuk mengkaji kesan rawatan in terhadap peratus anak pokok yang hidup. Pengaruh kalus dari daun didapati terbaik dengan penggunaan media MS dengan kepekatan separuh dan kultur di letakkan di dalam gelap 24 jam. Tetapi peratus pengaruh kalus adalah rendah iaitu hanya 2.00%±1.47. TDZ dengan kepekatan 3.0 mg/L dan NAA dengan kepekatan 0.046 mg/L, boleh meningkatkan peratus pengaruh kalus. Sukrosa pada kepekatan 2.0% (w/v) didapati lebih berkesan dengan menghasilkan pengaruh kalus sebanyak 42.00%±9.60. Hujung daun didapati mempunyai potensi yang tinggi dengan menghasilkan peratus pengaruh kalus sebanyak 50.00%±20.50. Media KC didapati paling sesuai untuk proliferasi and perkembangan JSP dengan menghasilkan 36.00%±16.52 JSP baharu yang hidup dan 5.83±1.95 JSP baharu per eksplan yang berproliferasi. Bilangan JSP baharu meningkat ke 8.38±2.45 bila 2.0 mg/L TDZ ditambah di dalam media KC dan 60.00%±24.47 JSP menghasilkan pucuk. NAA dan TDZ dengan kepekatan 2.0 mg/L didapati dapat mempertingkatkan bilangan JSP baharu sebanyak 10.53±4.50 dengan 76.00%±23.14 JSP menghasilkan pucuk. Penambahan 15% (v/v) air kelapa di dalam media juga didapati meningkatkan bilangan JSP baharu sebanyak 16.88±6.52 dengan 70.00%±42.02 tumbuh menjadi pucuk. Sukrosa dengan 2.0% (w/v) didapati menghasilkan 11.55±5.63 JSP baharu dengan 72.00%±16.20 tumbuh menghasilkan 10.22±6.17 pucuk. Media cecair yang terbaik untuk proliferasi JSP ialah media KC dengan menghasilkan 52.00%±25.88 eksplan yang



hidup. Peratus eksplan yang hidup ditingkatkan ke  $96.00\pm 5.48$  dengan penghasilan  $5.13\pm 1.63$  JSP baharu dengan penambahan  $3.0$  mg/L TDZ di dalam media pengkulturan. Auxin secara individu didapati tidak mempengaruhi proliferasi JSP sebaik sitokinin. Kompleks aditif pepton pada kepekatan  $0.2\%$  (w/v) pula didapati dapat merangsangkan proliferasi JSP dengan jumlah JSP baharu sebanyak  $11.70\pm 5.01$ . Proliferasi JSP sebanyak  $86.00\pm 10.35$  terhasil apabila  $1.0\%$  sukrosa (w/v) ditambah di dalam media. Kajian selanjutnya dijalankan untuk membandingkan penggunaan kompleks aditif  $0.2\%$  (w/v) pepton dengan pengawalatur tumbuhan  $3.0$  mg/L TDZ dengan cara mengoptimasikan proliferasi JSP di dalam gelap dan cerah. Pepton didapati dapat merangsangkan proliferasi JSP dengan peratusan setinggi  $84.00\pm 37.03$  di bawah  $16$  jam cerah sementara itu  $24$  jam cerah didapati meningkatkan bilangan JSP baharu sebanyak  $6.92\pm 3.08$  per eksplan. Di dalam kajian sistem rendaman sementara, Sistem RITA<sup>®</sup> adalah lebih baik berbanding dengan sistem flask kembar (BIT<sup>®</sup>). Dengan sistem RITA<sup>®</sup>, peratusan proliferasi JSP menjangkau  $66.00\pm 38.15$  dengan penghasilan  $12.56\pm 3.46$  JSP baharu per eksplan yang berproliferasi dengan perendaman selama  $30$  min setiap  $6$  jam setiap hari. Pengandaan pucuk dapat ditingkatkan dengan penggunaan  $2.0$  mg/L KIN dengan menghasilkan  $5.05\pm 2.01$  pucuk per eksplan. Seterusnya dengan penggunaan air kelapa sebanyak  $15\%$  (v/v) sebagai kompleks aditif, ianya meningkatkan pengandaan pucuk dua kali ganda dengan penghasilan  $13.83\pm 6.12$  pucuk per eksplan. Sukrosa dengan  $2.0\%$  (w/v) adalah lebih berkesan dengan penghasilan  $4.03\pm 3.16$  pucuk per eksplan. Media KC didapati adalah yang terbaik dengan menghasilkan  $4.69\pm 3.93$  pucuk per eksplan. Pembentukan akar telah ditingkatkan dengan penambahan  $1.0$  mg/L IAA dengan kombinasi  $0.5$  mg/L IBA di dalam media pengkulturan dan menghasilkan  $1.93\pm 0.96$  akar per eskplan. Penggunaan air kelapa sebanyak  $15\%$  (w/v) sebagai kompleks aditif juga dapat menambahbaik penghasilan akar dua kali ganda dengan menghasilkan  $3.00\pm 1.44$  akar per ekplan. Glukosa dengan  $2\%$  (w/v) didapati lebih baik dengan penghasilan  $1.90\pm 1.14$  akar per eksplan. Media KC didapati lebih baik sebagai media asas dengan menghasilkan  $3.00\pm 1.44$  akar per eksplan. Dalam proses aklimatisasi, pucuk yang lengkap dengan akar dirawat dalam keadaan fotoautotropik dan fotoheterotropik selama  $60$  hari dan kemudian dipindahkan di dalam pasu plastik yang mengandungi tanah gambut, lumut sphagnum dan serpihan arang dengan nisbah  $1:1:1$ . Peratusan anak pokok hidup yang dirawat dalam keadaan fotoheterotropik didapati lebih tinggi iaitu sebanyak  $78.00\pm 41.48$  dibandingkan dengan anak pokok yang dirawat dalam keadaan fotoautotropik. Sebagai kesimpulannya, kaedah propagasi in vitro dengan menggunakan pelbagai eksplan telah berjaya dibangunkan melalui media separa-pepejal. Media cecair juga boleh digunakan sebagai alternatif untuk proliferasi JSP terutamanya di dalam sistem rendaman sementara dengan menggunakan sistem RITA. Oleh itu, propagasi in vitro boleh digunakan sebagai alternatif untuk propagasi pengandaan orkid *D. lowii*.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<b>TITLE</b>	i
<b>DECLARATION</b>	ii
<b>CERTIFICATION</b>	iii
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT</b>	iv
<b>ABSTRACT</b>	v
<b>ABSTRAK</b>	vii
<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b>	ix
<b>LIST OF TABLES</b>	xiv
<b>LIST OF FIGURES</b>	xviii
<b>LIST OF PHOTOS</b>	xix
<b>LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS &amp; SYMBOLS</b>	xxiv
<b>LIST OF APPENDICES</b>	xxvi
<b>CHAPTER 1 : INTRODUCTION</b>	1
1.1 Objectives	3
<b>CHAPTER 2 : LITERATURE REVIEW</b>	5
2.1 Geographical Distribution and Taxonomy of <i>Dimorphorchis lowii</i>	5
2.2 <i>Dimorphorchis lowii</i> as an Ornamental Plant	7
2.3 <i>In Vitro</i> Orchid Propagation	7
2.3.1 Callus	9
2.3.2 Protocorm and protocorm-like body (PLBs)	10
2.3.3 Leaf culture	12
2.3.4 Shoot multiplication <i>via</i> shoot tip culture	13
2.3.5 Root formation	15
2.4 Liquid Culture System for <i>In Vitro</i> Propagation	16
2.4.1 Liquid shake culture system	17
2.4.2 Temporary immersion bioreactor systems (TIBS)	18
2.5 Factors Affecting <i>In Vitro</i> Propagation of Orchid	22
2.5.1 Basal media	22
2.5.2 Carbon source	31
2.5.3 Plant growth regulator (PGR)	35
2.5.4 Complex additive	40
2.5.5 Effects of Photoperiod	46
2.5.6 Effect of immersion frequency in TIBS	48
2.6 Plantlet Acclimatization	50
2.7 Concluding remarks	54
<b>CHAPTER 3 : CALLUS INDUCTION FROM LEAF EXPLANTS OF <i>Dimorphorchis lowii</i> ON SEMI-SOLID CULTURE</b>	55
3.1 Introduction	55
3.1.1 Objectives	56
3.2 Materials and Methods	57

3.2.1	Explant source	57
3.2.2	Medium preparation	57
3.2.3	Basal medium and photoperiod influences on callus induction	59
3.2.4	Plant growth regulator influence on callus induction	59
3.2.5	Carbon source influence on callus induction	59
3.2.6	Photoperiod influence on callus induction	60
3.2.7	The effect of different segments of leaf explant on callus induction	60
3.2.8	Histology and scanning electron microscopy observations on callus derived from leaf tip explant	60
3.2.9	Data collection and statistical analysis	61
3.3	Results and Discussion	62
3.3.1	Basal medium influence on survival of explants and callus induction	62
3.3.2	Plant growth regulator influence on callus induction	65
3.3.3	Carbon source influence on callus induction	72
3.3.4	Photoperiod influence on callus induction	76
3.3.5	Type of leaf segment influence on callus induction	79
3.3.6	Histology and scanning electron microscope observations on callus derived from leaf tip explant	80
3.4	Conclusion	84
<b>CHAPTER 4 : PROTOCOL-LIKE BODIES (PLBs) PROLIFERATION FROM CALLUS AND SUBSEQUENT SHOOT FORMATION OF <i>Dimorphorchis lowii</i> ON SEMI-SOLID CULTURE</b>		91
4.1	Introduction	91
4.1.1	Objective	93
4.2	Materials and Methods	93
4.2.1	Explant source	93
4.2.2	Medium culture preparation and culture condition	93
4.2.3	Basal medium influence on callus survival and PLBs proliferation from callus	95
4.2.4	Plant growth regulator influence on PLBs proliferation from callus and shoot development	95
4.2.5	Complex additive influence on PLBs proliferation from callus and shoot development	95
4.2.6	Carbon source influence on PLBs proliferation from callus and shoot development	96
4.2.7	Histology and scanning electron microscopy observations of callus	96

4.2.8	Data collection and statistical analysis	97
4.3	Results and Discussion	98
4.3.1	PLBs proliferation from callus and shoot development	98
4.3.2	Basal medium influence on callus survival and PLBs proliferation from callus	98
4.3.3	Plant growth regulator influence on PLBs proliferation from callus and shoot development	103
4.3.4	Complex additives influence on PLBs proliferation from callus and shoot development	110
4.3.5	Carbon source influence on PLBs proliferation from callus and shoot development	114
4.3.6	Histology and scanning electron microscopy observations of callus	119
4.4	Conclusion	123
<b>CHAPTER 5 :    PROTOCOL-LIKE    BODIES    (PLBs) PROLIFERATION OF <i>Dimorphorchis lowii</i> IN LIQUID SHAKE CULTURE SYSTEM</b>		124
5.1	Introduction	124
5.1.1	Objectives	126
5.2	Materials and Methods	126
5.2.1	Explant source	126
5.2.2	Medium culture preparation and culture condition	127
5.2.3	Basal medium influence on explant survival	127
5.2.4	Plant growth regulator influence on PLBs proliferation	127
5.2.5	Complex additive influence on PLBs proliferation	129
5.2.6	Carbon source influence on PLBs proliferation	129
5.2.7	Photoperiod influence on PLBs proliferation	129
5.2.8	Histology and scanning electron microscopy observations of PLB	130
5.2.9	Data collection and statistical analysis	131
5.3	Results and Discussion	131
5.3.1	Basal medium influence on explant survival	131
5.3.2	Plant growth regulator influence on PLBs proliferation	136
5.3.3	Complex additive influence on PLBs proliferation	141
5.3.4	Carbon source influence on PLBs proliferation	145
5.3.5	Photoperiod influence on PLBs proliferation	153
5.3.6	Histology and scanning electron microscopy observations of PLB	156
5.4	Conclusion	162
<b>CHAPTER 6 :    PROTOCOL-LIKE    BODIES    (PLBs) PROLIFERATION OF <i>Dimorphorchis lowii</i> IN TEMPORARY IMMERSION BIOREACTOR SYSTEM (TIBS)</b>		163
6.1	Introduction	163

6.1.1	Objective	166
6.2	Materials and Methods	167
6.2.1	Explant source	167
6.2.2	Medium culture preparation and culture condition	167
6.2.3	Temporary immersion bioreactor systems (TIBS) preparation	167
6.2.4	Immersion frequency influence on PLBs proliferation	175
6.2.5	Data collection and statistical analysis	175
6.3	Results and Discussion	175
6.3.1	Immersion frequency influence on PLBs proliferation	175
6.4	Conclusion	181
<b>CHAPTER 7 : SHOOT MULTIPLICATION OF <i>Dimorphorchis lowii</i> ON SEMI-SOLID CULTURE via SHOOT TIP EXPLANT</b>		182
7.1	Introduction	182
7.1.1	Objective	183
7.2	Materials and Methods	183
7.2.1	Explant source	183
7.2.2	Medium culture preparation and culture condition	184
7.2.3	Complex additive and explant orientation influences on shoot multiplication	184
7.2.4	Plant growth regulator and explant orientation influences on shoot multiplication	185
7.2.5	Carbon source influence on shoot multiplication	185
7.2.6	Basal media influence on shoot multiplication	185
7.2.7	Data collection and statistical analysis	186
7.3	Results and Discussion	187
7.3.1	Shoot multiplication pathways	187
7.3.2	Complex additive and explant orientation influences on shoot multiplication	190
7.3.3	Plant growth regulator (cytokinin) and explant orientation influences on shoot multiplication	199
7.3.4	Carbon source influence on shoot multiplication	206
7.3.5	Basal medium influence on shoot multiplication	211
7.4	Conclusion	216
<b>CHAPTER 8 : ROOT FORMATION OF <i>Dimorphorchis lowii</i> PLANTLET ON SEMI-SOLID CULTURE</b>		217
8.1	Introduction	217
8.1.1	Objective	218
8.2	Materials and Methods	218
8.2.1	Explant source	218
8.2.2	Medium culture preparation and culture condition	219

8.2.3	Complex additive influence on root formation	219
8.2.4	Plant growth regulator (auxin) influence on root formation	220
8.2.5	Carbon source influence on root formation	220
8.2.6	Basal medium influence on root formation	220
8.2.7	Data collection and statistical analysis	220
8.3	Results and Discussion	221
8.3.1	Complex additive influence on root formation	221
8.3.2	Plant growth regulator (auxin) influence on root formation	228
8.3.3	Carbon source influence on root formation	234
8.3.4	Basal medium influence on root formation	240
8.4	Conclusion	246
<b>CHAPTER 9 : <i>Dimorphorchis lowii</i> PLANTLETS ACCLIMATIZATION</b>		247
9.1	Introduction	247
9.1.1	Objective	249
9.2	Materials and Methods	249
9.2.1	Photoautotrophic and photoheterotrophic influences on plantlet acclimatization	249
9.2.2	Data collection and statistical analysis	250
9.3	Result and Discussion	253
9.3.1	Photoautotrophic and photoheterotrophic influences on plantlet acclimatization	253
9.4	Conclusion	258
<b>CHAPTER 10 : SUMMARY</b>		259
<b>REFERENCES</b>		267
<b>APPENDICES</b>		302

## LIST OF TABLES

	Page
Table 3.1: The effect of basal medium type and strength on callus induction from leaf tip explant of <i>D. lowii</i> cultured in medium supplemented with 2.0% (w/v) sucrose at 25±2°C after 60 days of culture.	64
Table 3.2: The effect of plant growth regulator type and concentration on callus induction from leaf tip explant of <i>D. lowii</i> cultured in half-strength MS medium supplemented with 2.0% (w/v) sucrose under 24-hour dark period at temperature of 25±2°C after 60 days of culture.	69
Table 3.3: The effect of carbon source type and concentration on callus induction from leaf tip explant of <i>D. lowii</i> at 25±2°C under 24-hour dark period, cultured on half strength MS medium supplemented with 3.0 mg/l TDZ and 0.046 mg/l NAA after 60 days of culture.	74
Table 3.4: The effect of photoperiod on callus induction from leaf tip explant of <i>D. lowii</i> cultured on half-strength MS medium supplemented with 3.0 mg/l TDZ and 0.046 mg/l NAA and 2.0% (w/v) sucrose at 25±2°C after 60 days of culture.	78
Table 3.5: The effect of type of leaf explant orientation on callus induction from leaf explant of <i>D. lowii</i> cultured in half-strength MS medium supplemented with 3.0 mg/l TDZ and 0.046 mg/l NAA and 2.0% (w/v) sucrose under dark photoperiod at 25±2°C after 60 days of culture.	81
Table 4.1 The effect of basal medium types and strength on the PLB proliferation from callus of <i>D. lowii</i> cultured on KC medium supplemented with 2.0% (w/v) sucrose under 24-hour light photoperiod with PFD of 15-25 $\mu\text{molm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ at 25±2°C after 60 days of culture (DOC).	102
Table 4.2 The effect of plant growth regulator types and concentration on PLBs proliferation and shoot development from callus of <i>D. lowii</i> cultured on KC medium supplemented with 2.0% (w/v) sucrose under 24-hour light photoperiod with PFD of 15-25 $\mu\text{molm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ at 25±2°C after 60 and 120 days of culture (DOC).	107
Table 4.3 The effect of combination of TDZ and NAA at various concentration on PLB proliferation and shoot development from callus of <i>D. lowii</i> cultured on KC medium supplemented with 2.0% (w/v) sucrose under 24-hour light photoperiod with PFD of 15-25 $\mu\text{molm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ at 25±2°C after 60 and 120 days of culture (DOC).	107



Table 4.4	The effect of combination of TDZ and NAA at various concentration on PLB proliferation and shoot development from callus of <i>D. lowii</i> cultured on KC medium supplemented with 2.0% (w/v) sucrose under 24-hour light photoperiod with PFD of 15-25 $\mu\text{molm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ at 25 $\pm$ 2 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ after 60 and 120 days of culture (DOC).	112
Table 4.5	The effect of carbon source type and concentration on PLBs proliferation and shoot development from callus culture of <i>D. lowii</i> on KC medium supplemented with 15% v/v coconut water under 24-hour light photoperiod with PFD of 15-25 $\mu\text{molm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ at 25 $\pm$ 2 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ after 60 and 120 days of culture.	116
Table 5.1	The effect of basal medium type and strength on explant survival cultured in medium supplemented with 2.0% (w/v) sucrose, incubated on orbital shaker for 24-hours at 100 rpm under 24-hour light photoperiod with PFD of 15-25 $\mu\text{molm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ at 25 $\pm$ 2 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ after 60 days of culture.	134
Table 5.2	The effect of plant growth regulator (cytokinin) types and concentrations on PLB proliferation cultured in KC medium supplemented with 2.0% (w/v) sucrose, incubated on orbital shaker for 24-hours at 100 rpm with 24-hour dark at 25 $\pm$ 2 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ after 60 days of culture.	139
Table 5.3	The effect of plant growth regulator (auxin) types and concentrations on PLB proliferation cultured in liquid KC medium supplemented with 2.0% (w/v) sucrose, incubated on orbital shaker for 24-hours at 100 rpm under 24-hour dark photoperiod at 25 $\pm$ 2 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ after 60 days of culture.	142
Table 5.4	The effect of complex additives types and concentrations on PLB proliferation cultured in liquid KC medium supplemented with 2% (w/v) sucrose, incubated on orbital shaker for 24-hours at 100 rpm with 24-hour light photoperiod, PFD of 15-25 $\mu\text{molm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ at 25 $\pm$ 2 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ after 60 days of culture.	146
Table 5.5	The effect of carbon source types and concentrations on PLB proliferation cultured in liquid KC medium supplemented with 0.2% (w/v) peptone incubated on orbital shaker for 24-hours at 100 rpm with 24-hour light photoperiod, PFD of 15-25 $\mu\text{molm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ at 25 $\pm$ 2 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ after 60 days of culture.	151
Table 5.6	The effect of complex additive 0.2% w/v peptone and cytokinin 3.0 mg/l TDZ on PLB proliferation cultured in liquid KC medium supplemented with 1.0% (w/v) sucrose, incubated on orbital shaker for 24-hours at 100 rpm at 25 $\pm$ 2 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ after 60 days of culture.	157
Table 6.1	The effect of different immersion frequency on <i>D. lowii</i> PLBs proliferation cultured in twin-flask and RITA temporary immersion bioreactor systems using liquid KC medium supplemented with 0.2% (w/v) peptone with 2.0% (w/v) sucrose incubated under 24-hour light photoperiod with PFD	179



of 15-25  $\mu\text{molm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$  at  $25\pm 2^\circ\text{C}$  after 60 days of culture.

Table 7.1	The effect of complex additive on shoot multiplication of <i>Dimorphorchis lowii</i> cultured in KC medium under 24-hour light photoperiod with PFD of 15-25 $\mu\text{molm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ and temperature of $25\pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ after 180 days of culture.	195
Table 7.2	The effect of PGR cytokinin on shoot multiplication of <i>Dimorphorchis lowii</i> cultured horizontally (H) and vertically (V) under 24-hour light photoperiod with PFD of 15-25 $\mu\text{molm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ and temperature of $25\pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ after 180 days of culture.	202
Table 7.3	The effect of carbon sources on shoot multiplication of <i>Dimorphorchis lowii</i> cultured horizontally in KC medium supplemented with 15% (v/v) coconut water incubated under 24-hour light photoperiod with PFD of 15-25 $\mu\text{molm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ and temperature of $25\pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ after 180 days of culture.	209
Table 7.4	The effect of basal medium type and strength on shoot multiplication of <i>Dimorphorchis lowii</i> cultured horizontally in medium supplemented with 2.0% (w/v) sucrose under 24-hour light photoperiod with PFD of 15-25 $\mu\text{molm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ and temperature of $25\pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ after 180 days of culture.	214
Table 8.1:	The effect of complex additives on root formation of <i>D. lowii</i> shoot tip cultured on KC medium supplemented with 2.0% (w/v) sucrose under 24-hour light photoperiod with PFD of 15-25 $\mu\text{molm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ and temperature of $25\pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ after 120 days of culture.	225
Table 8.2:	The effect of IAA, IBA and NAA on root formation of <i>D. lowii</i> shoot tip explants cultured on KC medium supplemented with 2.0% (w/v) sucrose under 24-hour light photoperiod with PFD of 15-25 $\mu\text{molm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ and temperature of $25\pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ after 120 days of culture.	231
Table 8.3:	The effect of combination of auxins IAA, IBA and NAA on root formation of <i>D. lowii</i> shoot tip explants cultured in KC medium under 24-hour light photoperiod with PFD of 15-25 $\mu\text{molm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ and temperature of $25\pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ after 120 days of culture.	232
Table 8.4:	The effect of carbon sources on root formation of <i>D. lowii</i> shoot tip cultured in KC medium supplemented with 15% (v/v) coconut water under 24-hour light photoperiod with PFD of 15-25 $\mu\text{molm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ and temperature of $25\pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ after 120 days of culture.	237
Table 8.5:	The effect of basal medium type and strength on root formation of <i>D. lowii</i> shoot tip cultured in KC medium supplemented with 15% (v/v) coconut water and 1.0% (w/v) sucrose under 24-hour light photoperiod with PFD of 15-25 $\mu\text{molm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ and temperature of $25\pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ after 120 days	243

of culture.

Table 9.1: The effect of photon flux density (PFD  $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ ) and medium type on the growth of plantlet after 60 days of acclimatization process in the glass house using substrate of sphagnum moss, coco peat and charcoal chips with the ratio of 1:1:1 maintained in the laboratory for the first 30 days.

254



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## LIST OF FIGURES

	Page
Figure 6.1: Twin-flask bioreactor system.	169
Figure 6.2: Mechanism of twin-flask system.	171
Figure 6.3: Modified RITA system.	172
Figure 6.4: Mechanism for RITA system.	174
Figure 10.1 Flowchart of <i>in vitro</i> mass propagation of <i>Dimorphorchis lowii</i> through semi-solid and liquid culture systems.	266



UMS  
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## LIST OF PHOTOS

	Page
Photo 2.1: Orchid <i>Dimorphorchis lowii</i> .	6
Photo 3.1: Source of leaf explant.	58
Photo 3.2: The effect of type of basal medium on callus induction from leaf tip explant of <i>D. lowii</i> cultured in medium supplemented with 2.0% (w/v) sucrose under 24-hour dark photoperiod at 25±2°C after 60 days of culture.	64
Photo 3.3: The effect of plant growth regulator type and concentration, applied individually on callus induction from leaf tip explant of <i>D. lowii</i> cultured in half-strength MS medium supplemented with 2.0% (w/v) sucrose under 24-hour dark photoperiod at temperature of 25±2°C after 60 days of culture.	70
Photo 3.4: The effect of plant growth regulator on callus induction from leaf tip explant of <i>D. lowii</i> cultured in half-strength MS medium supplemented with 2.0% (w/v) sucrose under 24-hour dark photoperiod and various concentrations of TDZ and NAA in combination at 25±2°C after 60 days of culture.	71
Photo 3.5: The effect of carbon source type and concentration on callus induction from leaf tip explant of <i>D. lowii</i> cultured in half-strength MS medium supplemented with 3.0 mg/l TDZ and 0.046 mg/l NAA under 24-hour dark photoperiod at 25±2°C after 60 days of culture.	75
Photo 3.6: The effect of photoperiod on callus induction from leaf tip explant of <i>D. lowii</i> cultured on half-strength MS medium supplemented with 3.0 mg/l TDZ and 0.046 mg/l NAA and 2.0% (w/v) sucrose at 25±2°C after 60 days of culture. Light photoperiod is PFD of 15 – 25 $\mu\text{molm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ .	78
Photo 3.7: The effect of type of leaf explant orientation on callus induction from leaf explant of <i>D. lowii</i> cultured in half-strength MS medium supplemented with 3.0 mg/l TDZ and 0.046 mg/l NAA and 2.0% (w/v) sucrose under dark photoperiod at 25±2°C after 60 days of culture.	81
Photo 3.8: Callus induction from leaf tip explant cultured on half-strength MS medium supplemented with 3.0 mg/l TDZ and 0.046 mg/l NAA with 2.0% (w/v) sucrose as carbon source, incubated under 24-hr dark period at temperature of 25±2°C.	82
Photo 3.9: Leaf tip explant.	85
Photo 3.10: Scanning electrone view of <i>D. lowii</i> leaf tip explants.	86

Photo 3.11:	Light microscopic view of <i>D. lowii</i> leaf tip explant.	87
Photo 3.12:	Scanning electron microscope observation of <i>D. lowii</i> leaf tip explant.	88
Photo 3.13:	Light microscopic views of unorganized callus cell.	89
Photo 4.1:	Source of explant.	94
Photo 4.2:	The development of PLBs and subsequent shoot formation in callus of <i>D. lowii</i> cultured in KC medium supplemented with 15% (v/v) coconut water and 2.0% (w/v) sucrose under 24-hour light photoperiod with PFD of 15-25 $\mu\text{molm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ at 25 $\pm$ 2 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ .	99
Photo 4.3:	The effect of basal medium types and strength on the PLB proliferation from callus of <i>D. lowii</i> cultured on KC medium supplemented with 2.0% (w/v) sucrose under 24-hour light photoperiod with PFD of 15-25 $\mu\text{molm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ at 25 $\pm$ 2 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ after 60 days of culture (DOC).	102
Photo 4.4:	The effect of plant growth regulator types and concentration on PLBs proliferation and shoot development from callus of <i>D. lowii</i> cultured on KC medium supplemented with 2.0% (w/v) sucrose under 24-hour light photoperiod with PFD of 15-25 $\mu\text{molm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ at 25 $\pm$ 2 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ after 60 and 120 days of culture (DOC).	108
Photo 4.5:	The effect of plant growth regulator combination on PLBs proliferation and shoot development from callus of <i>D. lowii</i> cultured on KC medium supplemented with 2.0% (w/v) sucrose under 24-hour light photoperiod with PFD of 15-25 $\mu\text{molm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ at 25 $\pm$ 2 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ after 60 days of culture and 120 days of culture.	109
Photo 4.6:	The effect of complex additive types and concentration on PLBs proliferation and development from callus of <i>D. lowii</i> cultured on KC medium supplemented with 2.0% (w/v) sucrose under 24-hour light photoperiod with PFD of 15-25 $\mu\text{molm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ at 25 $\pm$ 2 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ after 60 days of culture and 120 days of culture.	113
Photo 4.7:	The effect of carbon source types and concentration on PLBs proliferation and shoot development from callus of <i>D. lowii</i> cultured on KC medium supplemented with 15% (v/v) coconut water under 24-hour light photoperiod with PFD of 15-25 $\mu\text{molm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ at 25 $\pm$ 2 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ after 60 days of culture.	117
Photo 4.8:	The effect of carbon source types and concentration on PLBs proliferation and shoot development from callus of <i>D. lowii</i> cultured on KC medium supplemented with 15% (v/v) coconut water under 24-hour light photoperiod with PFD of 15-25 $\mu\text{molm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ at 25 $\pm$ 2 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ after 120 days of culture.	118

Photo 4.9:	Callus explant.	121
Photo 4.10:	Light micrographs stained section of callus of <i>D. lowii</i> .	122
Photo 5.1:	Source of explant at the age of 180-210 days of culture.	128
Photo 5.2:	The effect of types of liquid basal media on PLBs proliferation cultured in medium containing 2.0% (w/v) sucrose incubated on orbital shaker for 24-hours light photoperiod with PFD of 15-25 $\mu\text{molm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ at 100 rpm at 25 $\pm$ 2 $^{\circ}$ C after 60 days of culture.	135
Photo 5.3:	The effect of types of plant growth regulator cytokinin and concentrations on PLBs proliferation incubated in liquid KC medium supplemented with 2.0% (w/v) sucrose placed on orbital shaker for 24-hour at 100 rpm at 25 $\pm$ 2 $^{\circ}$ C after 60 days of culture under 24-hour dark photoperiod.	140
Photo 5.4:	The effect of types of plant growth regulator auxin and concentrations on PLBs proliferation incubated in liquid KC medium supplemented with 2.0% (w/v) sucrose, placed on orbital shaker for 24-hours at 100 rpm at 25 $\pm$ 2 $^{\circ}$ C after 60 days of culture under 24-hour dark photoperiod.	143
Photo 5.5:	The effect of type of complex additives and concentration on PLBs proliferation incubated in liquid KC medium supplemented with 2.0 mg/l (w/v) sucrose placed on orbital shaker for 24-hours at 100 rpm at 25 $\pm$ 2 $^{\circ}$ C after 60 days of culture, under 24-hour light photoperiod with PFD of 15-25 $\mu\text{molm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ .	147
Photo 5.6:	The effect of types of carbon sources and concentration on PLBs proliferation incubated in liquid KC medium supplemented with 0.2% (w/v) peptone placed on orbital shaker for 24-hours at 100 rpm at 25 $\pm$ 2 $^{\circ}$ C after 60 days of culture under 24-hour light photoperiod with PFD of 15-25 $\mu\text{molm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ .	152
Photo 5.7:	The comparison between complex additive peptone (0.2% w/v) and cytokinin TDZ (3.0 mg/l) on PLBs proliferation cultured in KC medium supplemented with 1.0% (w/v) sucrose, incubated on orbital shaker for 24-hours at 100 rpm at 25 $\pm$ 2 $^{\circ}$ C after 60 days of culture under different photoperiods.	158
Photo 5.8:	Micrographs of PLBs of <i>D. lowii</i> .	160
Photo 5.9:	Histological observation (light microscopy) of a new PLB (secondary PLB- black arrow) is formed on the surface of the mother PLB (primary PLB).	161
Photo 6.1:	Apparatus for twin-flask system.	170
Photo 6.2:	Apparatus for RITA system.	173
Photo 6.3:	The effect of different immersion frequency on <i>D. lowii</i> PLBs proliferation cultured in twin-flask and RITA	180

temporary immersion bioreactor systems using liquid KC medium supplemented with 0.2% (w/v) and 2.0% (w/v) sucrose peptone under 24-hour photoperiod with PFD of 15 – 20  $\mu\text{molm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$  at 25±2°C after 30 day of culture.

Photo 7.1:	Source of explant.	183
Photo 7.2:	The shoot multiplication regeneration pathways.	189
Photo 7.3:	The effect of complex additives on shoot multiplication of <i>D. lowii</i> shoot tip culture when placed horizontally (H) and vertically (V) in Knudson C medium under 24-hour light photoperiod of 15-25 $\mu\text{molm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ with temperature of 25±2°C.	197
Photo 7.4:	The effect of type of cytokinin and its concentration on shoot multiplication of shoot tip of <i>D. lowii</i> cultured on KC medium. DOC- days of culture.	203
Photo 7.5:	The effect of type and concentration of carbon source on shoot multiplication of <i>D. lowii</i> cultured horizontally on KC medium supplemented with 15% (v/v) coconut water under 24-hour light photoperiod of 15-25 $\mu\text{molm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ with 25±2°C after 180 days of culture.	210
Photo 7.6:	The effect of basal medium type and strength on shoot multiplication of <i>D. lowii</i> cultured horizontally in media supplemented with 2.0% (w/v) sucrose incubated under 24-hour light photoperiod of 15-25 $\mu\text{molm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ at 25±2°C after 180 days of culture.	215
Photo 8.1:	Source of explant.	219
Photo 8.2:	The effect of complex additives on root formation of <i>D. lowii</i> shoot tip cultured on KC medium under 24-hour light photoperiod with PFD of 15-25 $\mu\text{molm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ and temperature at 25±2°C after 120 days of culture (DOC).	226
Photo 8.3:	The effect of plant growth regulator (auxin) on rooting formation of <i>D. lowii</i> shoot tip cultured on KC medium under 24-hour light photoperiod with PFD of 15-25 $\mu\text{molm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ and temperature at 25±2°C after 120 days of culture.	233
Photo 8.4:	The effect of carbon sources on root formation of <i>D. lowii</i> shoot tip cultured on KC medium under 24-hour light photoperiod with PFD of 15-25 $\mu\text{molm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ and temperature at 25±2°C after 120 days of culture (DOC).	238
Photo 8.5:	The effect of basal media on root formation of <i>D. lowii</i> shoot tip cultured under 24-hour light photoperiod with PFD of 15-25 $\mu\text{molm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ and temperature at 25±2°C after 120 days of culture (DOC).	244
Photo 9.1:	Hardening method	251
Photo 9.2:	Substrates mixture used for potting.	252

Photo 9.3: Plantlet acclimatization in the glasshouse.

255

Photo 9.4: Mature mother plant and plantlets of *D. lowii*

257



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