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## Stable transformation of *Nicotiana benthamiana*

Jana Ordon<sup>1</sup>, Hannelore Espenhahn<sup>1</sup>, Carola Kretschmer<sup>1</sup>, Johannes Stüttmann<sup>1</sup><sup>1</sup>Martin Luther University Halle/Saale

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Works for me

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Johannes Stüttmann

Martin-Luther Universität Halle-Wittenberg



### ABSTRACT

Detailed protocol with pictures for the transformation of *Nicotiana benthamiana*. The same protocol will also work for transformation of *Nicotiana tabacum*, but regeneration of transformed plants will take more time.



*Nicotiana benthamiana*  
transformation.pdf

### GUIDELINES

Plant tissue culture has to be carried out under sterile conditions.

### MATERIALS TEXT

#### Required Material

##### YEB medium:

5 g/l beef extract, 1 g/l yeast extract, 5 g/l peptone, 5 g/l sucrose, 0.5 g/l MgCl<sub>2</sub> [add 1.5 % agar for plate preparation]

##### Antibiotics:

Rifampicin: stock 100 mg/l in DMSO or DMF; 1000 x for bacterial selection

Gentamycin: stock 15 mg/l in H<sub>2</sub>O; 1000 x for bacterial selection

Kanamycin: stock 50 mg/l in H<sub>2</sub>O; 1000 x for bacterial, 500 x for plant selection

Spectinomycin: stock 50 mg/ml in H<sub>2</sub>O; 1000 x for bacterial selection

Carbenicillin: stock 100 mg/ml in H<sub>2</sub>O; 1000 x for bacterial selection

##### Induction medium:

YEB medium, 10 mM MES pH 5.7 – 5.8 [KOH], 20 µM Acetosyringone, antibiotics

##### MMA medium:

4.3 g/l MS salts including vitamins (Duchefa M0222), 20 g/l sucrose, 10 mM MES pH 5.7 - 5.8 [KOH]

##### MS medium:

4.3 g/l MS salts including vitamins (Duchefa M0222), 20 g/l sucrose, 10 mM MES pH 5.7 - 5.8 [KOH],

8 g/l Gelrite (Duchefa G1101). Verify pH, and adjust with KOH if required.

##### MSII medium:

MS medium, 1 mg/l 6-Benzylaminopurine (BAP), 0,1 mg/l Naphthalene acetic acid (NAA), 100 mg/l Kanamycin, 200 mg/l Cefotaxime (Claforan, Duchefa C0111)

##### MSIII medium:

MS medium, 100 mg/l Kanamycin, 200 mg/l Cefotaxime (Claforan, Duchefa C0111)

### Tobacco plants:

We use 3-5 week-old, greenhouse-grown *Nicotiana benthamiana* plants (growth conditions: 16h light period, 60 % relative humidity at 24/20 °C (day/night), 130-150  $\mu\text{E m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$  light intensity ).

### Preparation of Agrobacterium suspension

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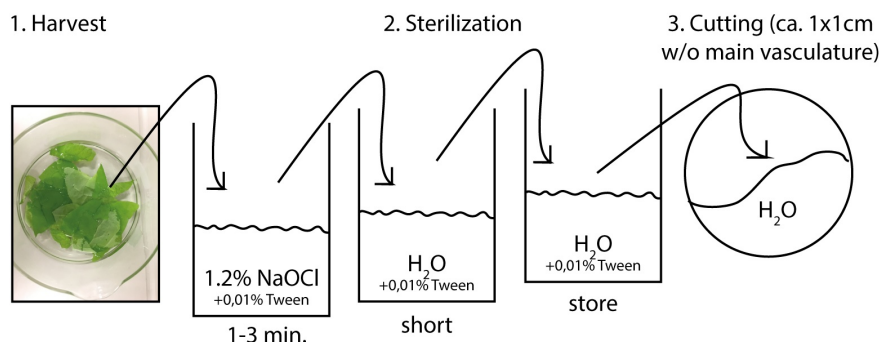
- Streak the *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* (*A. tumefaciens*; GV3101 pMP90) strain carrying the transformation construct on YEB plates containing required antibiotics (Rifampicin, Gentamycin + construct-specific antibiotic).
- Two days prior to transformation: Inoculate 5 ml YEB liquid culture (with antibiotics); grow for 24 h with shaking at 30 °C.
- One day prior to transformation: Inoculate 100 ml culture with 1 ml of the pre-culture in induction medium (containing antibiotics), shake over night at 30 °C.
- Day of transformation: Pellet bacteria by centrifugation (40 ml in Falcon tubes, 20 min, 4000 x g. Resuspend bacteria in MMA medium (without antibiotics) to an  $\text{OD}_{600}=0.8$  (50 ml).

### Preparation of *N. benthamiana* leaf tissue for transformation

2

Try to injure plant tissue as little as possible! All steps following the surface-sterilization have to be carried out under sterile conditions.

- Harvest the 2-3 youngest, but fully expanded leaves of 3-5 weeks-old *Nicotiana benthamiana* plants (3-5 leaves are required for each transformation).
- Cut leaves into pieces, omitting main veins.
- Incubate leaf cuts for 30 sec in 1.2 % NaOCl (+0.01 % Tween).
- Wash twice in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (+0.01 % Tween) to get rid of the bleach.
- Store leaf cuts in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ .

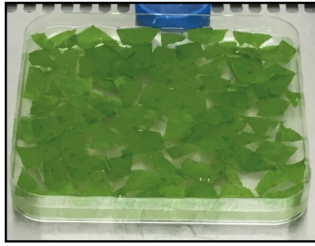


### Transformation

3

- Further cut surface-sterilized leaves into smaller pieces (ca. 1x1 cm).
- Incubate leaf cuts in *A. tumefaciens* suspension:
  - Pour *A. tumefaciens* suspension in a square petri dish.
  - Place leaf cuts on the surface of the suspension. When the surface is covered, you will have more than enough leaf cuts for each transformation.
  - Incubate at least 30 min.
- Prepare a fresh square petri dish with a sterile piece of water-wetted Whatman paper.
- Transfer leaf cuts onto Whatman paper.
- Seal dishes with Leukopor tape and incubate for 2 days in the dark (24 °C, wrap in aluminium foil to protect from light).

4. Incubation with *Agrobacterium* suspension



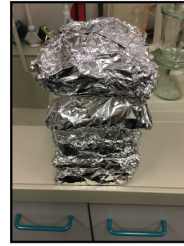
- OD<sub>600</sub> = 0.8
- incubate at least 30 min.

5. Transfer onto water-wetted Whatman filters



close square plastic dish with Leukopor tape, wrap in aluminium foil.

6. Incubate in the dark



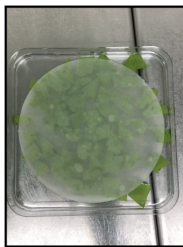
2 days

Selection and shoot induction

4

- Prepare square dish with 50 ml H<sub>2</sub>O (containing Kanamycin (100 mg/l) and Cefotaxime (250 mg/l)) for washing of the leaf cuts.
- Pick up the Whatman paper with the leaf cuts using sterile forceps and place it upside-down onto the surface of the wash solution to release leaf cuts from the filter into the wash solution. Gently shake the petri dish, and incubate for > 3 min.
- Dry leaf cuts by gently swiping on a fresh, sterile Whatman filter.
- Place dried leaf cuts on shoot induction medium (MS-II). Use standard round petri dishes to minimize the risk of contamination. Place 8-10 leaf cuts on each plate.
- Seal plates with Leukopor tape. Incubate in a light cabinet until shoots occur (5-6 weeks under our conditions: 23°C, 24h light, intensity 105 – 125 μE m<sup>-2</sup>s<sup>-1</sup>).
- It may be necessary to transfer leaf cuts/ developing calli to new MS-II plates during the incubation if media start drying out.

7. Wash & sterilize leaf cuts



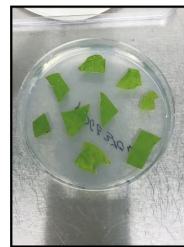
- turn Whatman filter upside down
- in square plastic dish with H<sub>2</sub>O + antibiotics + Claforan
- incubate pieces for at least 3 min.

8. Dry on Whatman filter



gently swipe to dry leaf cuts

9. Place pieces on MSII medium



- ca. 8-10 pieces per plate
- MSII medium + antibiotics + Claforan
- close plates with Leukopor
- incubate for 5-8 weeks

Root induction and transfer to soil

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Shoots start developing from calli on MS-II plates and need to be transferred to MS-III plates to induce rooting. Since calli do not develop homogeneously, shoots may be cut and transferred at different time points.

- Cut well-developed shoots with a sterile blade. Try to cut as low as possible, but avoid transferring any callus tissue, as this will prevent further development of the shoot.
- Stick shoots with the cut surface into MS-III medium, and incubate under the same conditions as before for further development of the shoot and rooting.  
Note: Red light will prevent rooting!
- We use 0.5 l Weck glasses for rooting and place max. 3 shoots in each jar.
- Shoots originating from a single callus are, in general, originating from the same transgenic event. Thus, to only sample independent transformants, we only transfer one single shoot per callus to rooting medium.
- Calli can be kept as a back-up on MS-II medium, as shoots will continue to develop.

- Shoots will further develop in MS-III media, and will eventually form roots (2-3 weeks).
- Transfer well-developed shoots to soil. Remove MS medium from shoots/ roots to avoid contamination. We transfer shoots directly into potting soil that had been passed through a sieve. Again, shoot development is not homogeneous, and some shoots will not start rooting in a timely manner. Indeed, even rather small shoots without any roots will, in many cases, develop well once transferred to soil.
- It is important to keep plants under high humidity after transfer to soil. Place respective plants in a tray covered with a lid for ~ 2 weeks. Once plantlets appear sufficiently vigorous, reduce humidity in the course of 2-3 days by first displacing the lid before completely removing it.
- Grow plants as usually to obtain seeds. In our hands (GV3101 pMP90, pVS1 origin for transformation constructs), most plants will contain multiple insertions of the T-DNA.

10. Move shoots w/o callus on MSIII medium



11. Place plants into soil when roots are formed



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