

Regeneration of babaco (*Carica pentagona* (Heilborn) Badillo) by somatic embryogenesis

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Abstract

Somatic embryos of babaco [*Carica pentagona*, (Heilborn) Badillo] were obtained from morphogenic callus and from callus-derived cell suspensions, both originating from leaf lamina-explants obtained from several culture steps. Callus formation occurred in the presence of TDZ and IAA; but GA3 appears to be necessary (in the final culture step) for embryo development. Under the culture conditions used, embryogenesis in babaco was low compared to embryo yield figures for other edible species of the family Caricaceae.