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Development of a Method to Enhance the Growth and to Recover the Diseased Anthurium andraeanum L. Using Beneficial Microbial Communities (Biofilm Biofertilizers)

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Present study attempted to enhance the growth and disease recovery of A. andraeanum under both in-vitro and ex-vitro conditions using an environmental-friendly method. In-vitro grown healthy plants in 95 g of sterilized growth medium were experimented with three types of Biofilm Biofertilizer-BFBF (BV, BR and BT), chemical fertilizer (N:P:K;20:20:20) with 50% and 100% concentration and combination of three types of BFBF with 50% chemical fertilizer. Distilled water was used as the control. The initial growth parameters (total fresh weight, total shoot length, total number of leaves) were recorded. They were established using the nine treatments each consists of five glass jars having 5 plants in each jar (9x5x5). They were kept under continuous florescent light and 24 °C with 85% relative humidity. Ten milliliters of each treatment were applied with two-week intervals up to two months. The same procedure was carried out for in-vitro grown diseased plants as well. Total number of leaves and number of infected leaves were counted before the establishment and initial disease severity was calculated. Not only in-vitro grown plants, but also ex-vitro grown healthy and diseased plants were tested under the same procedure. Four months after establishment, the same growth parameters were recorded. Final disease severity index was calculated for diseased plants. Obtained data were statistically analyzed using one-way ANOVA and the experimental design of Completely Randomized Design (CRD). Mean separation was carried out using Tukey's HSD test. The statistical software was SAS 1998. Combination of BFBF type BT with 50% chemical fertilizer recorded the highest growth enhancement among other treatments for both in-vitro and ex-vitro grown A. andraeanum. Better disease recovering of in-vitro grown plants was accomplished using BFBF type BV alone. However, it was difficult to recover the disease in ex-vitro grown plants using any treatment.

Keywords: Anthurium andraeanum, biofilm Biofertilizer, fertilizer, diseases