EFFECT OF DESICCATION ON THE GERMINATION OF IMMATURE ZYGOTIC EMBRYOS

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The effects of different desiccation methods and time periods on the germination of immature avocado zygotic embryos have been studied. Partial desiccation in conditions of high relative humidity had significant effects on germination percentages (15% in the control vs 73.33% in embryos desiccated for 14 days in B5m+cw medium). Other traits, such as type of germination and the quality of the obtained plants were also improved following the desiccation process. Optimum results were observed with embryos desiccated in the presence of culture medium; however, the observed changes could not be correlated to the water content of the zygotic embryo.