INFLUENCE OF GROWTH SPACE, TEMPERATURE AND LIGHT INTENSITY ON THE IN VITRO CONSERVATION OF AVOCADO GERMPLASM

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There is a large genetic diversity of avocado and wild relatives in Mexico although there is a rapid germplasm loss due, on the one hand, to habitat destruction in the last decades and, on the other hand, to the extensive planting of the Hass cultivar, diminishing the orchards with native Mexican avocados in Michoacan and other States of the Mexican Republic. Traditional conservation methods require important labor and space and the risk of losing the material due to the exposure to environmental conditions. *In vitro* conservation is an alternative. Reducing the growth space, temperature and light intensity during the incubation of axillary buds obtained from *in vitro* cultured and conserved avocado plants in Murashige and Skoog (MS) medium, it was possible to observe the influence of these variables on explant inhibition. The explants showed low necrosis percentages and growth was minimum, without affecting explant viability after 90 days of conservation; this was checked by placing conserved buds on MS shoot inducing medium, obtaining 80-90 of sprouting.