

***IN VITRO* LONG-TERM STORAGE OF DATE PALM (*PHOENIX DACTYLIFERA* L.)**

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A reliable method for the long – term conservation of date palm tissue cultures is described. *In vitro* shoot bud and callus culture were successfully stored for 12 months at 5° C in the dark. At these conditions high percentage of cultures remained viable without serious signs of senescence. Also growth rate decreased as storage period increased. The role of sorbitol as osmotic stress in storage was examined. At normal growth conditions, health shoot bud cultures of date palm were obtained after 6 months of storage on medium containing 40 g/l sorbitol. However, this period extended for 9 months in the case of callus cultures.