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# Isolation of quality DNA from gladiolus corms using different methods

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#### Abstract

DNA is the principal material for numerous molecular studies in plants. Leaves are most commonly used for extraction of DNA pertaining to the ease of isolation. In this study, we have tried two different methods for isolation of quality DNA from gladiolus corms of two genotypes i.e. *Psittacinus* hybrid and Pink Friendship. Gladiolus corms are rich in polysaccharides and polyphenols which make extraction of DNA difficult. The two DNA isolation methods i.e. method 1 and method 2 gave different results for quality and quantity of DNA. DNA yield was found to be better in method 2 for both *Psittacinus* hybrid and Pink Friendship genotypes as compared to method 1. DNA bands were also found to be less smeared in method 2 with respect to method 1. Good quality DNA obtained from uncommonly used plant part like corms with a suitable method can be successfully employed for various molecular studies.

Keywords: Corm, DNA, gladiolus, polysaccharides, polyphenols

#### Introduction

Molecular breeding is a non-conventional method of crop improvement where DNA is the base material for several analyses. Genomic DNA is subjected to various molecular techniques like polymerase chain reactions (PCR), genetic marker analysis, southern blot analysis, DNA fingerprinting and association mapping, etc. A good quality genomic DNA is crucial for carrying out molecular studies pertaining to research in areas of crop improvement, conservation of genetic materials and diversity analysis (Tan and Yiap, 2009)<sup>[1]</sup>. Suitable methods for extraction of DNA largely depend upon the nature and complexity of the plant material (Kumari et al., 2012)<sup>[2]</sup>. However, isolation of good quality DNA from plant parts such as bulbs, corms and tubers that are rich in polysaccharides proves to be difficult than DNA extraction from leaves. Several authors have studied different DNA isolation protocols for various plant parts like leaves, flower buds, fruits, seeds, roots and tubers (Sharma et al., 2008 <sup>[3]</sup>, Hwang Bo et al., 2010 <sup>[4]</sup>, Amani et al., 2011 <sup>[5]</sup>, Kumari et al., 2012) <sup>[2]</sup>. Various chemicals such as Polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP), proteinase K, sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS), etc., were utilized at different steps for improving the efficiency of DNA isolation protocols. Gladiolus is an important bulbous flower crop in the world. Molecular studies in gladiolus are mainly carried out with DNA isolated from its leaves, whereas other plant parts like corms are rarely used. Corms are modified underground stem which act as a storage structure and also used as propagating material (Ghamsari et al., 2007) <sup>[6]</sup>. Corms consist of polysaccharides, polyphenols and secondary metabolites like alkaloids, tannins, saponins, glycosides, flavonoids and carbohydrate (Ameh et al., 2011)<sup>[7]</sup>. These compounds impede in extraction of DNA (Bandaranayake, 2002)<sup>[8]</sup> and render the DNA samples non-amplifiable (Sarwat et al., 2006)<sup>[9]</sup>. Polysaccharide impurities can inhibit the activity of enzymes, such as polymerases, ligases and restriction endonucleases (Sarwat et al., 2006)<sup>[9]</sup> whereas oxidized polyphenols bind to DNA and degrade its keeping quality (Katterman and Shattuck, 1983)<sup>[10]</sup>. Therefore, in this study, an easy and rapid protocol for extraction of genomic DNA from the corms of gladiolus has been identified. The quality DNA thus obtained from corm tissues utilizing suitable method can be used for various molecular techniques like polymerase chain reaction with random primers.

#### Materials and Methods Plant material

Gladiolus genotypes *Psittacinus* hybrid and Pink Friendship were used in this study. Corms were collected from the field and were thoroughly washed under tap water followed by washing with sterile water. The samples were stored at 4  $^{\circ}$ C until use.

### **DNA** isolation procedures

The protocols for isolation of DNA from corms of gladiolus were carried out according to Sharma *et al.*, (2013) <sup>[11]</sup> and Lodhi *et al.* (1994) <sup>[12]</sup> with few modifications as follows:

# Method 1: Sharma *et al.*, (2013) <sup>[11]</sup>

Before grinding, the corms were heated at 65°C for 30 min. 100 mg of tissue were homogenized with mortar and pestle and 500 µL of extraction buffer [100 mM Tris-HCl pH 8.0, 10 mM Ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA), 1 M NaCl, 1 % sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS), 2 % PVP, 1 % βmercaptoethanol, 0.05 mg/mL proteinase K and 4 % (w/v) polyethylene glycol (PEG)] was added to it. The mixture was transferred to 2 mL micro centrifuge tube and mixed well. The sample was then incubated at 65°C for 30 min in a water bath with intermittent gentle shaking. Then the mixture was centrifuged at 13000 g at room temperature for 10 min. The supernatant was taken into a fresh 1.5 mL micro centrifuge tube. Two-third volume of Isopropanol was added to it and mixed gently. Then it was kept for incubation at -20 °C for 1 hour followed by centrifugation at 13000 g for 10 min. The supernatant was discarded and DNA pellet was washed with 500 µL of ice cold 70% ethanol by centrifuging at 13000 g for 5 min. After discarding the supernatant the pellets were air dried at room temperature until the traces of ethanol was gone. DNA pellets were suspended in 100 µL of TE buffer (10 mM Tris-HCl pH 8.0 and 1.0 mM EDTA). DNA was treated with RNAse A (10  $\mu$ g/100  $\mu$ L) and kept at 37°C for 1 hour and stored at -20 °C until further use.

# Method 2: Modified Lodhi et al. (1994)<sup>[12]</sup>

100 mg of fresh weight of tissues was cut from the corm and pulverized into fine powder with autoclaved mortar and pestle in liquid nitrogen. 1 mL of extraction buffer [100 mM Tris-HCl pH 8.0, 10 mM EDTA, 1.5 M NaCl, 2% cetyl trimethylammonium bromide (CTAB)] and 10 mg of PVP (P6755; Sigma-Germany) were added to the ground sample. CTAB was dissolved by heating at 65 °C and 2%  $\beta$ -mercaptoethanol was added to the extraction buffer just before its use. The slurry was then transferred to 2 mL micro centrifuge tubes and mixed thoroughly. Then it is kept for incubation in a water bath at 65  $^{\circ}\mathrm{C}$  for 30 min and mixed intermittently. After cooling at room temperature the homogenized mixture is centrifuged at 10000 g for 5 min and supernatant was collected separately in a fresh 2 mL mi cro centrifuge tube. Equal volumes of chloroform: octanol was added to the supernatant and mixed gently by inverting the tube to form an emulsion. Then it was again centrifuged at 10000 g for 5 min at room temperature. The top aqueous phase was transferred to 1.5 mL micro centrifuge tube. 0.1 volume of 3M sodium acetate was added to it and mixed gently. Then two volumes of cold (- 20  $^{\circ}\text{C})$  absolute alcohol was also added to the tube and gently mixed by inverting the tubes. The solution was kept at - 20 °C for 1 hour. It was then centrifuged at 10000 g for 10 min at room temperature. The supernatant was discarded and DNA pellets were washed with 100  $\mu$ L cold (-20 °C) 70 % ethanol by spinning at 10000 g for 5 min. The supernatant was discarded and the pellets were air dried until smell of ethanol was gone completely. Pellets were then dissolved in 50  $\mu$ L TE buffer. DNA solution was then treated with RNAse A (10  $\mu$ g/100  $\mu$ L) and kept at 37°C for 1 hour to remove traces of RNA. The sample was then stored at - 20 °C until further use.

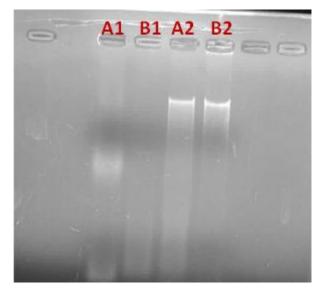
#### Quantitative and qualitative analysis of DNA samples

The yield of genomic DNA samples and presence of impurities in it were analyzed with Nanodrop spectrophotometer by measuring absorbance at 260 nm and 280 nm in the form of  $A_{260}/A_{280}$  ratio. Absorbance at 260 nm indicates protein impurities whereas absorbance at 280 nm shows presence of polyphenols or polysaccharides impurities in the DNA samples. An aliquot of 2 µL DNA samples were also analyzed through gel electrophoresis in 0.8 % agarose gel (SeaKem LE Agarose, Lonza) and DNA bands were visualized under UV spectrophotometer to check for quality of DNA.

# Results

# Isolation of genomic DNA

DNA was isolated from the corms of *Psittacinus* hybrid and Pink Friendship. The  $A_{260}/A_{280}$  ratio in method 1 for *Psittacinus* hybrid and Pink Friendship was 0.86 and 1.14 respectively, indicating presence of protein, phenol or other contaminants. The DNA yield was found to be 217.20 ng/µL and 63.60 ng/µL for *Psittacinus* hybrid and Pink Friendship respectively (Table 1). In method 2, the  $A_{260}/A_{280}$  ratio for *Psittacinus* hybrid and Pink Friendship were 2.05 and 2.01 respectively, whereas DNA yield was 854.90 ng/µL and 481.40 ng/µL respectively. The agarose gel analysis of genomic DNA samples from the two methods showed quality of DNA extracted according to the two methods. Compacts bands of DNA were found in method 2 whereas method 1 showed smeared DNA bands (Fig. 1).



**Fig 1:** Gel picture of DNA isolated from gladiolus corm using different protocols. A1= DNA isolated from *Psittacinus* hybrid using Method 1, B1= DNA isolated from Pink Friendship using Method 1, A2= DNA isolated from *Psittacinus* hybrid using Method 2, B2=

DNA isolated from Pink Friendship using Method 2.

Protocol for DNA isolation	A260/A280 ratio	DNA yield (ng/µL)
	Method 1	
Psittacinus hybrid	0.86	217.20
Pink Friendship	1.14	63.60
	Method 2	
Psittacinus hybrid	2.05	854.90
Pink Friendship	2.01	481.40

### Discussion

The yield of DNA for Psittacinus hybrid and Pink Friendship obtained in method 2 was found to be better than method 1 which is suitable for different molecular techniques. A<sub>260</sub>/A<sub>280</sub> ratio for DNA samples isolated from Psittacinus hybrid and Pink Friendship ranged from 2.01 to 2.05 which showed insignificant amount of contaminants. Pure DNA has 1.8 as the ratio of absorbance at 260/280 nm. A<sub>260</sub>/A<sub>280</sub> ratio ranging from 1.8 to 2.0 shows uncontaminated DNA sample (Kasem et al., 2008 <sup>[13]</sup> and Osman et al., 2015 <sup>[14]</sup>). A<sub>260</sub>/A<sub>280</sub> ratio less than 1.8 indicates protein contamination whereas more than 2.0 A<sub>260</sub>/A<sub>280</sub> ratio shows presence of RNA in the sample (Varma et al., 2007) <sup>[15]</sup>. The cetyl trimethyl ammonium bromide (CTAB) based DNA isolation protocol is the most commonly used method for different plant materials (Kumari et al., 2012) [2]. Polysaccharides present in tuberous plant parts form tight complexes with nucleic acid and makes DNA inaccessible to the enzymes (Sharma et al. 2002)<sup>[16]</sup>. CTAB is a cationic surfactant added to extraction buffer that prevents co-purification of polysaccharides from plant tissues and averts embedding of DNA (Moreira et al., 2011)<sup>[17]</sup> and also selectively precipitates DNA from histone proteins (Khan et al., 2007) [18]. To improve efficiency of DNA isolation protocol polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP) was incorporated during the process. PVP and  $\beta$ -mercaptoethanol helps in sequestering polyphenols form the sample (Khanuja et al., 1999 [19] and Sahu et al., 2012)<sup>[20]</sup>. Addition of NaCl to extraction buffer effectively inhibits co-precipitation of polysaccharides with DNA by increasing its solubility in ethanol (Ribeiro et al., 2007) <sup>[21]</sup>. EDTA in the extraction buffer has the ability to sequester ions such as Mg<sup>2+</sup> and Ca<sup>2+</sup> present in cellular membranes. The bands obtained in method 2 after gel electrophoresis appeared to be compact with least smear showing little degradation during isolation process and absence of impurities. In method 1, the yield and quality of DNA were poor. Smearing of DNA during gel electrophoresis might be due to degradation of DNA during the process of extraction.

#### Conclusion

In this study, two DNA extraction methods were used to isolate high quality DNA that can be used for various molecular analyses. Generally fresh leaf samples are preferred for DNA extraction protocols. Isolation of DNA from corms will help in carrying out molecular studies even when there is no standing crop. CTAB method of DNA isolation was found to be effective for complex plant tissues like corms which are rich in polysaccharides and polyphenols. Therefore this method is reliable for isolation of quality DNA from gladiolus corms and there is no need to go for special techniques or commercial kits which might be expensive, time consuming and labour-intensive for obtaining high throughput DNA.

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