

Area of concentration: Plant Breeding

**TIME TO INOCULATION OF OVULES FOR THE *IN VITRO* GRAPEVINE
EMBRYO RESCUE**

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The Vale do Submédio São Francisco accounts for about 99% of total Brazilian grape exports, reaching volumes of 49.3 thousand tons in 2020. The objective of this study was to evaluate time to inoculation of grape ovules to increase the efficiency of the method of vine embryo rescue. The crosses were carried out using as parents 'BRS Isis' ♀ x 'CNPUV 24' ♂, grown in the Experimental Field of Bebedouro, Embrapa Semiárido - Petrolina, PE. The treatments were represented by three different time to inoculation of ovules (T1: six weeks after pollination; T2: seven weeks after pollination and T3: eight weeks after pollination). A completely randomized design with five replications was used, with 20 berries as the experimental unit. The quantified variables were: number of inoculated ovules, number of rescued embryos, number of germinated embryos and germination percentage. The effect of the time to collect the bunches and inoculation of ovules was significant, with T3 increasing the number of inoculated ovules (30.2) and rescued embryos (15.2). Inoculation of grape ovules six weeks after pollination (T1) is not recommended, as it presented the lowest values for number of inoculated ovules and rescued embryos, consequently, no germination was obtained on this treatment. The variables number of germinated embryos and germination percentage did not differ statistically between treatments T2 and T3. The germination percentage in T2 was 50%, while in T3 it was 65%. It is recommended the inoculation of ovules eight weeks after pollination since it increases the efficiency of the embryo rescue technique in the seedless table grape breeding.

KEYWORDS: *Vitis* sp.; Tissue culture; Table grape breeding.