EFFECT OF AGAR AND SUCROSE CONCENTRATION ON IN VITRO MULTIPLICATION OF NODAL SEGMENT OF Cordia verbenacea<sup>1</sup> Osmar Alves Lameira<sup>2</sup>, José Eduardo B.P.Pinto<sup>3</sup>, Maria de Fátima Arrigoni-Blank<sup>3</sup> & Ilka N. de Abreu<sup>3</sup>

Cordia verbenacea (Boraginaceae) an important medicinal plant grows over a large area in Brazil, particularly in the coastal region. Clonally propagating by tissue culture is highly desirable to regenerate plants with similar characteristics. There is few previous reports on micropropagation of Cordia verbenacea. In this study, in vitro techniques are applied to propagate of this important Brazilian medicinal plant. Nodal explants with 30 to 40 mm, were excised from greenhouse plants and surface sterilized with 0.6% sodium hypochlorite for 10 minutes. Explants were inoculated with 5 mm on several condition: on solid (0.6 and 0.8%) agar of Murashige and Skoog (1962) (MS) basic medium combinated with 15, 30 and 45 g.L-1 of sucrose supplemented with 1  $\mu$ M kinetine and 0,01  $\mu$ M naftalene acetic acid (ANA). The treatment containing 30 g.L-1 sucrose was more efficient in the presence of 10 g.L-1 agar, producing 2.4 propagules per explant with 9.05mm lenght. The agar concentration no influenced of propagules growth of Cordia verbenacea.

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