

# Upscaling FRM Production for Future Forests and FGR Conservation: Clonal Propagation of Selected *Taxus baccata* Plus Trees with High Paclitaxel Content <sup>†</sup>

Christina-Emmanuela Pavlidou <sup>1</sup>, Fani Lyrou <sup>1</sup>, Elias Pipinis <sup>2</sup> and Filippos A. Aravanopoulos <sup>3, 4,\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Laboratory of Forest Genetics, Faculty of Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Environment, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Thessaloniki Greece; emilypavlidou@for.auth.gr; familyrou@for.auth.gr

<sup>2</sup> Laboratory of Silviculture, Faculty of Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Environment, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Thessaloniki Greece; epipinis@for.auth.gr

<sup>3</sup> Laboratory of Forest Genetics, Faculty of Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Environment, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece

<sup>4</sup> Laboratory of Silviculture, Faculty of Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Environment, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Thessaloniki Greece; e-mail@e-mail.com

\* Correspondence: aravanop@for.auth.gr

<sup>†</sup> Presented at the 3rd International Electronic Conference on Forests — Exploring New Discoveries and New Directions in Forests, 15 to 31 October 2022. Available online: <https://iecf2022.sciforum.net>

**Abstract:** *Taxus baccata* (European yew) is native to Greece, which hosts the most south-eastern populations of the species. It is a medically interesting conifer due to its tetracyclic diterpenes, the anti-cancer agent paclitaxel (taxol), being the most well-known. Yew trees with high content of paclitaxel (taxol) have been identified in the natural population of Mt. Cholomon in Greece. The micropropagation of these plus-trees is of high importance both for the establishment of future plantations and for the ex-situ conservation of this valuable germplasm. A total of 600 cuttings from top and side shoots were taken from 10 highly producing paclitaxel trees and treated with a rooting solution containing the plant hormone K-IBA at concentrations of 6000 ppm and 12000 ppm. Cuttings were placed in a greenhouse for rooting using a perlite and peat 2:1 rooting medium, under constant temperature and humidity conditions. After five months the evaluation of rooting success, showed that it varied between different genotypes (40%-100%), but was generally considerable (average success of 78.7%). The higher K-IBA concentration resulted in a better rooting success, only in 50% of the genotypes tested, however root length was differentially affected, as use of the 12000 ppm concentration resulted in an average of 2.76 cm root length, compared to an average of 2.69 cm when the 6000 ppm concentration was used. Overall, high yielding paclitaxel (taxol) were successfully micropropagated and these results constitute to both ex-situ conservation and plantation establishment.

**Keywords:** *Taxus baccata*; paclitaxel; micropropagation; K-IBA; ex-situ conservation

**Citation:** Pavlidou, C.-E.; Lyrou, F.; Pipinis, E.; Aravanopoulos, F.A. Upscaling FRM Production for Future Forests and FGR Conservation: Clonal Propagation of Selected *Taxus baccata* Plus Trees with High Paclitaxel Content. *Environ. Sci. Proc.*, 2022, 4, x.

<https://doi.org/10.3390/xxxxx>

Academic Editor: Rodolfo Picchio

Published: date

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