

**EFFECT OF ARTIFICIAL LIGHT SPECTRUM ON PLANT VIGOR
OF TISSUE CULTURE *Anubias hastifolila* PLANT**

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ABSTRACT

Anubias hastifolia is a hardy aquatic plant of the family Araceae, widely used in aquascaping and aquarium ornamentation due to its attractive foliage and adaptability. With growing global demand, it presents significant potential for commercial propagation and foreign revenue generation. However, its slow growth and specific environmental requirements make conventional propagation inefficient. Research on optimizing light spectra for aquatic plants in tissue culture remains limited, with most studies focused on terrestrial species. This study aimed to evaluate the effects of artificial light spectra and planting density on the *in vitro* growth and morphology of *A. hastifolia*, with the goal of establishing commercially viable tissue culture protocols. The experiment was conducted at Ruvini Aqua Plants Lanka (Pvt) Ltd., Sri Lanka, using a Completely Randomized Design. Plants were grown under seven light treatments (red, blue, white, and their combinations) and two planting densities (two and four plants per container). Growth parameters, including leaf number, length, width, surface area, and fresh and dry biomass, were recorded over three weeks. ANOVA and Tukey's test were used for statistical analysis. Results showed that leaf number did not significantly differ among treatments ($p > 0.05$), with values ranging from 13.47 to 15.72 leaves per pot in two-plant containers and from 30.06 to 37.78 in four-plant containers. However, treatment effects on leaf morphology and biomass were highly significant ($p < 0.001$). T₁ (Red LED) consistently produced the longest leaves (up to 1.94 ± 0.20 cm), widest blades (up to 0.97 ± 0.27 cm), and largest surface area (up to 1.43 ± 0.45 cm²). Fresh weight was highest in T₆ (Red: Blue 1:1) at 0.58 ± 0.24 g in four-plant containers, while T₂ (Blue LED) yielded 0.56 ± 0.21 g. Dry weight was highest under T₇ (White fluorescent) and T₂, reaching 0.13 ± 0.07 g. High-density conditions amplified treatment differences across most traits. The study concludes that specific light spectra, particularly red and red-blue combinations, significantly enhance growth and morphology of *A. hastifolia*, with responses varying by planting density. These results support the development of efficient, light-optimized tissue culture protocols. Future studies should investigate the effects of environmental variables, including light spectrum, intensity, photoperiod, temperature, and nutrient availability, as well as their

interactions, on plant growth, physiological mechanisms, and commercial-scale validation to enhance applicability and scalability.

Keywords: *Anubias hastifolia*, aquatic plant tissue culture, *in vitro*, LED light spectra, plant density

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DEDICATION	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	iv
ABSTRACT	v
TABLE OF CONTENTS	vii
LIST OF FIGURES	x
LIST OF TABLES	xii
ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS	xiii
CHAPTER 01	1
1.1. Background of the study	1
1.2. Objectives	3
1.2.1. General Objective	3
1.2.2. Specific Objectives	3
CHAPTER 02	4
2.1. Aquatic plants	4
2.2. Propagation techniques	4
2.3. Tissue culture techniques of aquatic plants	5
2.4. Taxonomy of Anubias plant.....	6
2.5. Propagation techniques of Anubias plant	7
2.6. Use of artificial lightning in tissue culture.....	8
2.7. Suitable light spectrum for the incubation phase of aquatic plant tissue culture.....	10
2.8. Relationship between shelf life and light spectrum in aquatic plant tissue culture ..	11
2.9. Photosynthesis and Light Quality	12
2.9.1. Overview of Photosynthesis.....	12
2.9.2. Comparison of red, blue, and white light on Photosynthesis	12
2.9.2.2. Red light.....	13
2.9.2.3. White light	13
2.9.3. Adaptation Mechanisms of Aquatic Plants to Light Quality	14
2.9.4. Tissue culture requirements for aquatic plants.....	15
2.9.4.1. Basics of aquatic plant tissue culture	15
2.9.4.2. Explant selection.....	15

2.9.4.3. Sterilization.....	15
2.9.4.4. Preparation of culture medium.....	16
2.9.4.5. Inoculation	16
2.9.4.6. Regeneration	16
2.9.4.7. Subculture and proliferation	16
2.9.4.8. Transformation.....	16
2.9.5. Influence of sterilization techniques on explant viability	17
CHAPTER 03	18
3.1. Overview of research methodology.....	18
3.2. Used materials and equipment.....	18
3.2.1. Materials used in the experiment.....	18
3.2.2. Equipment used in the experiment	18
3.2.3. Chemicals	19
3.3. Plant materials.....	19
3.3.1. Selection of Anubias plant varieties	19
3.4. Growth media	20
3.4.1. Growth media preparation	20
3.4.2. pH adjustment and maintenance	20
3.4.3. Sterilization techniques.....	21
3.5. LED light applications.....	21
3.5.1. Setup of LED light systems	21
3.5.1.1. Fabrication of LED fixtures for light treatments	21
3.5.2. Description of light spectrum combinations (Red, Blue, White)	22
3.5.3. Control of environmental conditions (Temperature, Humidity).....	22
3.5.4. Growth parameters measured	22
3.5.4.1. Number of leaves per container	22
3.5.4.2. Leaf length	23
3.5.4.3. Leaf width	23
3.5.4.4. Leaf surface area	23
3.5.4.5. Total fresh biomass per container	23
3.5.5.6. Total dry biomass per container.....	24

3.5.5. Data collection and analysis	24
3.5.5.1. Recording observations and measurements	24
3.5.5.2. Statistical analysis techniques	24
CHAPTER 04	25
4.1. Total number of leaves	25
4.2. Length of a leaf	27
4.3. Width of a leaf	29
4.4. Surface area of a leaf	31
4.5. Fresh Weight of Whole Plants	33
4.6. Dry Weight of Whole Plants	36
4.7. Influence of light color on morphological and physiological traits	38
4.8. Discussion	40
4.8.1. Total Number of Leaves	40
4.8.2. Leaf Length	40
4.8.3. Leaf Width	41
4.8.4. Surface Area of a Leaf	41
4.8.5. Plant Fresh Weight	42
4.8.6. Dry Weight of Plants	42
CHAPTER 05	43
5.1. Conclusion	43
5.2. Recommendations	44
References	45
Appendix	52