

**TRANSIENT EXPRESSION OF *ELN* GENE IN
TOBACCO PLANT**

BY

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B.Sc. Agric. Sci. (Biotechnology), Fac. Agric., Cairo Univ., 2008.

THESIS

**Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the
Requirements for the Degree of**

MASTER OF SCIENCE

In

**Agricultural Sciences
(Genetics)**

**Department of Genetics
Faculty of Agriculture
Cairo University
EGYPT**

2015

APPROVAL SHEET

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ABSTRACT

Plant molecular farming (PMF) is an important growing prospective approach in plant biotechnology. It includes production of recombinant pharmaceutical and industrial proteins in large quantities from engineered plants. Elastin is a major protein component of elastic fibers. They provide tissues with the required resilience and elasticity. In this work, *Nicotiana tabacum* leaves were used as a bioreactor for the expression and production of the full human tropoelastin protein; the precursor protein of elastin. The agrobacterium-mediated transient expression system into *Nicotiana tabacum* was used *via* syringe agroinfiltration to provide a fast and convenient way to produce recombinant proteins with a greater expression overall the plant leaf. This study aimed to establish an efficient and rapid system for transiently expression and production of human recombinant tropoelastin protein in transgenic *N. tabacum* plants. Modified sequence of the elastin (*ELN*) gene was biosynthesized and cloned into pCambia1390 vector to be transferred into *N. tabacum*. Optimization of codon usage for the human tropoelastin gene, without changing the primary structure of the protein was carried out to ensure high expression in tobacco plants. The obtained data proved that the 5th day post-infiltration is the optimum interval to obtain the maximum production of the recombinant protein. Southern blot analysis was able to detect the 2175 bps fragment representing the *ELN* orf. On the other hand, *ELN* -expression within plant's tissue was visualized by RT-PCR within 3 to 10 days post agroinfiltration. At the protein level, western and ELISA confirmed the expression of recombinant tropoelastin protein. The western blot analysis detected the tropoelastin protein as a parent band at ~70 kDa from freshly extracted protein. While two degraded bands of ~55 and ~45 kDa representing a pattern of tropoelastin were appeared with frozen samples. This study showed that biosynthetic *ELN* gene was successfully expressed into *N. tabacum* leaves using the agroinfiltration technique.

Key words: Molecular farming, transient expression, agroinfiltration, human tropoelastin *hTE*, *ELN*, *ELISA*, western blot.

DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to whom my heartfelt thanks: to my mother, aunts, brother, cousins and my friends for their endless support along the period of my post-graduation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

At first, I would like to express my thanks to ALLAH, my God for his blessing that allowed me to fulfill this work,

Also, I would like to express my gratitude to Dr. Naglaa Abdallah; Professor of genetics at the faculty of Agricultural, Cairo University and Dr. Ghada Abu el-Heba; Department of Nucleic Acid and Protein Structure, Agricultural Genetic Engineering Research Institute (AGERI) for suggesting the point of the research, providing all the materials, supplies and facilities for this work to be done and for the supervision, planning and direction along the period of this work,

Special thanks and sincere appreciation to Dr. Abdel Hadi Abdallah, lecturer of Genetics, Faculty of Agriculture, Cairo University, for his assistance, guidance, encouragement and support throughout the work and during the writing of the thesis.

Grateful appreciation is also extended to Dr. Reda Salem, researcher at MPPL lab, Agricultural Genetic Engineering Research Institute (AGERI) for his valuable advice and support.

Sincere appreciation to my colleagues in AGERI; Omar Ahmed, Mohamed Talal, Nourhan, Amro, Mai and Bakr for their endless help in finishing up my practical work,

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