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
**Somatic Embryogenesis from Immature Cotyledons of Some European
Chestnut (*Castanea sativa* Mill.) Cultivars**

Bekir ŞAN¹, Mehmet SEZGİN², Hatice DUMANOĞLU³,
A. İlhami KÖKSAL³

¹Süleyman Demirel University, Faculty of Agriculture, Department of Horticulture,
Isparta - TURKEY

²Ankara University, Faculty of Forestry Çankırı - TURKEY

³Ankara University, Faculty of Agriculture, Department of Horticulture, 06110 Ankara -
TURKEY

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 [Authors](#)



agric@tubitak.gov.tr

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Abstract: In 4 European chestnut (*Castanea sativa* Mill.) cultivars ('Hacıbiş', 'Karamehmet', 'Osmanoğlu' and 'Sarışlama'), somatic embryogenesis from immature cotyledons of open-pollinated seeds collected 5, 6, 7, and 8 weeks after anthesis and cultured on Driver and Kuniyuki walnut (DKW) medium was determined in this study. The percentage of embryogenic cotyledons and the number of embryos per embryogenic cotyledon were recorded at the end of the second subculture. The results showed that the highest percentage of embryogenesis ranged from 40% to 70% and the number of embryos per embryogenic cotyledon varied from 4.04 to 7.70 among the cultivars. Cotyledons collected 5, 6, and 7 weeks after anthesis were the most embryogenic.

Key Words: Chestnut, *Castanea sativa* Mill., somatic embryogenesis

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