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Growth and micropropagation assays of *Salicornia* and *Sarcocornia* plants

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Salicornia and *Sarcocornia* are both succulent halophytic plants, with articulate stems and leaves reduced to a scale. Some authors refer to them as belonging to the *Chenopodiaceae* Family; some others say they should be included in the *Amaranthaceae*¹. They are very rich in diuretic, depurative and resolutive substances, and also in iodine, phosphorus, calcium, silicon, zinc and magnesium, and vitamins A, C and D. In some countries they are already used in salads or as pickles - hence the common name "pickleweed". Seeds are rich in edible oils, highly polyunsaturated. In this work, besides establishing *in vitro* cultures and searching for the adequate growth medium, a screening with growth regulators was initiated, in order to verify the best micropropagation conditions, namely the concentrations and ratios of the plant hormones. It was verified that *Salicornia* and *Sarcocornia* showed a faster growth development in a medium with a defined composition, 2% salinity (w/v), total N concentration 8mM and 2mM for phosphorus. Micropropagation assays are still being run out, but *Sarcocornia* answered best to the IAA 0.5/ Kin 0.5 (mg L⁻¹) ratio.

1. Haines, A. (2000) Botanical notes on line taxonomy publication 2.