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COMMUNICATIONS

PHOTOSENSITIVITY OF SEED GERMINATION OF *CYMBIDIUM DAYANUM* (ORCHIDACEAE)

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The study of the seed germination and the development *in vitro* of rare white-flowered form of *Cymbidium dayanum* was carried out. The seeds were germinated in conditions of darkness and light, at 20°C and with a transfer to 26°C in the 10th week of cultivation. Seed germination was successful at both 20°C and 26°C, however optimal temperature for development of the seedlings was 26°C. At 20°C in the light, seed germination began in the 20th week after sowing, whereas in the darkness in the 5th week. Thus, the light significantly increased the time before germination. In addition, the germination rate slowed down five weeks after the cultures transfer to 26°C and to the light, and by the end of the experiment, the percentage of germination was 80% compared with 94% in the dark. The results indicate a negative effect of light on the duration of germination suggesting its photosensitivity. The unusual type of germination was identified. The protocorm emergence took place from the chalazal end of the seed, instead of its middle part as in most orchids.

Keywords: Cymbidium dayanum, Orchidaceae, seed and seedling morphometry, seed germination, photosensitivity of seeds, protocorm development

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