

CELL AND TISSUE CULTURE OF *GELIDIUM* SPECIES

R.R. Robaina and P. García-Jiménez

Departamento de Biología. Universidad de Las Palmas G.C. Campus de Tafira. 35017. Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. Spain

Cell and tissue culture techniques are used for biomass production and genetic improvement of commercial important genus, like *Gelidium*. To contribute to the techniques for *in vitro* micropropagation of *Gelidium* species we have cultivated explants and sporelings, studied the regeneration pattern and the way to bring efficiently laboratory cultures into axenic cultures of *Gelidium canariensis* and *G. arbuscula*. In the light of the results obtained, sporulation of surface sterilised sporangia may be a suitable methods to establish axenic cultures in which plant growth and carbon sources, the fundamentals of micropropagation, could be applied in the next future.