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Transient GUS and GFP Expression in Spanish Red Cedar (*Cedrela odorata* L.) Somatic Embryos. Optimization of Bombardment Conditions and Evaluation of Selective Agent Lethal Dose

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ABSTRACT
Cedrela odorata is a tropical tree widely appreciated for its wood. Commercial plantations are frequently hampered by the attack of the meliacea borer, *Hypsipyla grandella*, and the lack of resistant varieties. C. *odorata* traditional breeding would consume very long periods of time, thus direct transfer of entomotoxic coding genes to generate resistant varieties is a promising alternative. There are two prerequisites for gene manipulation of this species: 1) to set the conditions for transgene delivery and 2) to have a way to select regenerating transformed plants. In this paper, we report the optimal biolistics conditions for transient expression of *uid*A and *gfp* reporter genes in C. *odorata* somatic embryos and the selective doses for kanamycin, spectinomycin, phosphinotrycin and hygromycin to screen transformed cells.

KEYWORDS
Biolistics; Genetic Transformation; Tree Genetic Modification; Tropical Wood

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