yields by at least a factor of 10, which minimizes the costs for extraction and purification of the protein of interest.

A technique of this kind for transient expression in plants is now used on a large scale for producing vaccines by certain companies, which are currently developing extensive production units in the United States.

However, despite these efforts, there is still a need for an efficient and reproducible method for producing recombinant allergens that allows recombinant allergens to be obtained having a composition and conformation similar to those of their natural homologs. Moreover, there is a need for a method that has a good production yield.

SUMMARY

In one aspect, the present invention refers to a method for producing a recombinant allergen in a tobacco plant comprising the following steps: a) culture of the plant aeroponically or hydroponically, and under LED lighting, then b) agroinfiltration of the plant obtained in a) under vacuum by agrobacteria comprising a DNA fragment coding for the recombinant allergen, then c) returning the plants to culturing after step b), in the same conditions as for step a), then d) extraction and purification of the recombinant allergen from the aerial parts of the plants produced in step c).

The present invention makes it possible to obtain complex recombinant proteins, in particular complex recombinant allergens, which have never been obtained previously in recombinant form. These allergens are, moreover, copies identical to their natural homologs.

The present invention therefore relates to a method for producing a recombinant protein in a plant, preferably a tobacco plant, preferably *Nicotiana benthamiana*, comprising the following steps:

a) culturing the plants aeroponically or hydroponically, preferably on mobile floats, and under LED lighting,

b) agroinfiltration of the plants obtained in step a), under vacuum, by agrobacteria comprising a DNA fragment coding for the recombinant protein, then

c) returning the plants to culturing after step b), in the same conditions as for step a), then

d) extraction and purification of the recombinant protein from the aerial parts of the plants produced in step c)

The present invention also relates to a recombinant protein obtainable by the method according to the invention.

The plant usable in the method according to the invention is notably a tobacco plant selected from *Nicotiana benthamiana* and *Nicotiana tabacum* or any other plant usable for transient expression, such as a lettuce (genus Lactuca) or a spinach plant (Spinacia oleracea). Among the lettuces, we may mention the lettuce Appia, Grosse Blonde Paresseuse, Lollo Rosso, Merveille

CLAIMS

1. A method for producing a recombinant allergen in a tobacco plant comprising the following steps:

a) culture of the plant aeroponically or hydroponically, and under LED lighting, then

b) agroinfiltration of the plant obtained in a) under vacuum by agrobacteria comprising a DNA fragment coding for the recombinant allergen, then

c) returning the plants to culturing after step b), in the same conditions as for step a), then

d) extraction and purification of the recombinant allergen from the aerial parts of the plants produced in step c).

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the recombinant allergen is a recombinant mite allergen.

3. The method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the recombinant allergen is selected from the allergens of *Dermatophagoides farinae*, the allergens of *Dermatophagoides pteronyssinus*, the allergens of *Euroglyphus manei*, the allergens of *Acarus siro*, the allergens of *Blomia tropicalis*, cockroach allergens, tree or grass pollen allergens, allergens of animals, allergens of molds, allergens of hevea latex and allergens responsible for food allergies.

4. The method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the recombinant allergen is selected from Der f 10, Der f 11, Der f 13, Der f 14, Der f 15, Der f 16, Der f 17, Der f 18, Der f 2, Der f 2.0101, Der f 2.0102, Der f 2.0103, Der f 2.0104, Der f 2.0105, Der f 2.0106, Der f 2.0107, Der f 2.0108, Der f 2.0109, Der f 2.0110, Der f 2.0111, Der f 2.0112, Der f 2.0113, Der f 2.0114, Der f 2.0115, Der f 2.0116, Der f 2.0117, Der f 20, Der f 3, Der f 4, Der f 5, Der f 6, Der f 7, Der f 8, Der f 9 and Der f HSP70.

5. The method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the recombinant allergen is selected from Der p 10, Der p 11, Der p 14, Der p 15, Der p 18, Der p 2, Der p 2.0101, Der p 2.0102, Der p 2.0103, Der p 2.0104, Der p 2.0105, Der p 2.0106, Der p 2.0107, Der p 2.0108, Der p 2.0109, Der p 2.0110, Der p 2.0111, Der p 2.0112, Der p 2.0113, Der p 20, Der p 21, Der p 3, Der p 4, Der p 5, Der p 6, Der p 7, Der p 8 and Der p 9.

6. The method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the recombinant allergen is selected from Blo t 1, Blo t 5, Blo t 9, Blo t 10, Blo t 12 and Blo t 21.

7. The method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the agroinfiltration is carried out under vacuum by the Venturi effect.

8. The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the agroinfiltration is carried out either by a step of putting the plant under vacuum for 2 minutes, or by vacuuming, then breaking the vacuum and returning to atmospheric pressure, then putting under vacuum, followed finally by return to atmospheric pressure.