Terpinen-4-ol is Overproduced in Tissue Cultures of *Alpinia zerumbet* (Pers.) Burtt et Smith by Induction of Methyl Jasmonate

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**SUMMARY.** *Alpinia zerumbet* (Zingiberaceae) presents a high medicinal value, in part by its production of volatile compounds. Organogenic *in vitro* cultures of *A. zerumbet* were treated with the elicitor methyl jasmonate (MeJA), a natural volatile signaling molecule in biotic and abiotic stress, and the effect was evaluated on the *in vitro* production of volatiles. Leaves of plantlets were subjected to simultaneous distillation-extraction (SDE), and sabinene, β-pinene, 1,8 cineole and terpinen-4-ol were the main volatiles detected. However, after exposure to a solution of MeJA for 3 and 10 days, terpinen-4-ol showed a remarkable increase, corresponding to 18.01 and 14.75 %, respectively, when compared to control with ethanol. In contrast, exposure of plantlets to the addition of ethanol induced levels of sabinene and 1,8 cineole higher than those produced by MeJA.

**KEY WORDS:** Elicitation, Micropropagation, volatile compounds, Zingiberaceae.

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