

CHAPTER 7

General conclusions

Rich and diverse variation exists in the genus *Clivia*. Therefore, methods which will enable more rapid clonal multiplication would enable propagation of plants with desirable characteristics. This would stimulate further research into cultural aspects such as the control of phenology in commercial production. Once further work has been conducted on the specific cultural requirements of particular clones, their commercialisation will lead to development of more new cultivars either through conventional breeding or the use of modern biotechnology. In combination, successful control of propagation and phenology will lead to increased popularity of *Clivia* in a market which constantly demands new and improved products which are attractive to consumers and profitable for producers. Although the propagation techniques presented in this study may not be adequate for commercial scale propagation, it is felt that they will be useful in allowing wider distribution of desirable genotypes which are in the possession of individual collectors or a small number of growers.

Since significant advances have been made in the cultivation and breeding of *Clivia* in Japan and Europe, a concerted research effort will need to be applied locally in order to gain any competitive advantage. It is hoped that the results of this study will serve to illustrate what may be achieved if further work is conducted in the areas which were examined and where preliminary results were obtained.