Abstract

Backhousia myritifolia id a canopy rainforest species found along the east coast of Australia. The inflorescences are comprised of umbles containing six small (approximately 20-30 mm diameter) white flowers protruding from auxiliary nodes in the upper or terminal shoots. Recently, the cut stems of $^{-1}$ have generated strong demand from florists in Japan, but there are frequent reports of poor quality. This paper investigates the effects of storage temperature on the vase life of *B. myritifolia* flower and foliage inflorescence respiration at 0°C was 4.5 mol $kg^{-1}h^{-1}$ and cut stems had respiratory Q_{10} of 2.3 between 0 and 10 °C for one week. However, no correlation was found between chlorophyll fluorescence parameters and symptoms of chilling injury. At storage temperatures of 5 and 10°C, desiccation was the primary cause of vase life termination. A postharvest anti-transpirant was applied to inhibit water loss but did not prevent desiccation. Storage at 15 °C caused flower and leaf abscission. The postharvest biology of *B. myritifolia* will continue to be investigated to further understand postharvest abscission, desiccation and blackening.