

al<sup>9</sup>, Jarvis and Booth<sup>10</sup> and Jarvis *et al*<sup>11</sup>, who noted that initiation of roots in the stem cuttings of *Phaseolus aureus* is stimulated by auxin, although an adequate supply of boron is necessary for the formation of the root primordia as well as their subsequent growth. The profuse rooting in *A. sanguinolenta* by Stik indicates that there is low endogenous level of auxin in the stem cuttings and by stimulating the cambial activity, rooting is also augmented (*see also* Hejnowicz and Tomaszewski<sup>12</sup>).

Nanda *et al*<sup>13</sup> found that inverted cuttings of *Ipomoea fistulosa* rarely rooted, but produced root with auxin treatment. The present observations also indicate that roots emerged only in treated cuttings and there was no rooting in untreated ones. This shows the potential of Stik to maintain optimum level for auxins already present in the cuttings to initiate the cambial cells for the formation of the new root initials as observed in the present experiment.

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## NEWS

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### GUARDING AGAINST SCIENTIFIC FRAUD

... "The history of the philosophy of science is the history of the question, Can we avoid error, fantasy, and deceit? ... We need not guard science against error, only against fraud. The guardian of science against mistaken hypothesis is not the referee system or ethical committees but empirical experiment and the demand that each experiment be independently repeated before it be publicly and officially acknowledged. The guardian of society against fraud, however, is different. Usually fraud is a matter for the law. Ethical committees cannot replace laboratories that perform repetitions of scientific experiments and normally should not replace the system enforcing the law. Their function would be better restricted to the detection

and elimination of suspected dishonesty with intent to defraud. As scientific deceit is often perpetrated with public money some such cases, concerning senior as well as junior researchers, ought to be referred to the court . . . . It follows that we need not protect science against any tempting idea, only against immoral scientific practices."

[(Nathaniel Laor (Yale U.) in *British Medical Journal* 290(6469).681-4, 2 Mar 85) (Reproduced with permission from Press Digest, *Current Contents*<sup>®</sup>, No. 21, May 27, 1985, p. 19. Published by the Institute for Scientific Information<sup>®</sup>, Philadelphia, PA, USA.)]