FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MICROPROPAGATION OF TEA
TEA - ROOTING OF SHOOTS PRODUCED IN CULTURE

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The successful establishment and multiplication of tea in culture using shoot tips and nodal segments as explants was reported at the 42nd Annual Session of the SLAAS. The work carried out in rooting the shoots produced in vitro is reported in this paper.

Shoots of clone TRI 2025, CY 9 and shoots regenerated directly from cotyledons in culture were successfully induced to produce roots. The basic MS medium was used with IBA at concentrations of 0.1, 0.2, 1.0 and 2.0 mg/l without any cytokinins.

Differences in genotypic responses to root initiation was observed in the clones that were studied, different clones requiring different concentrations of auxins for root initiation. We have been unsuccessful so far in inducing rooting of clones of the three thousand series.

The rooted plantlets were transferred into soil and were acclimatized in the humid chamber. This is the first record of the micropropagation of tea using shoot tips as explants.