B-24 The influence of indole-3-acetic acid, a root promoter of potato, on the hatching behav of *Globodera rostochiensis* free eggs under axenic culture conditions

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Eggs of the potato cyst nematode (*Globodera rostochiensis*) hatch freely under axenic culture conditi permitting an estimation of the relative stimulatory effect of the host plant rhizosphere. In our re estimation based on the percentage cumulative hatch (%CH) of free eggs, it was not clear whether %CH in fact, dependent on the level of indole-3-acetic acid (IAA) incorporated in the medium. The present st is aimed at determining whether added IAA, while acting as an *in vitro* root promoter, could influence Modified Murashige & Skoog basal medium supplemented with 4 levels of IAA (0, 0.4, 0.8, 1.2 mgl^{-1}) w used to promote *in vitro* root formation from internode stem segments (~1cm) of cv. *Sebago* (the genoty which showed the highest CH in the previous study). The selected locations of the *in vitro* rhizosphere in culture were inoculated with axenic egg suspensions on the 7th day after root initiation. Petri dishes with host roots were inoculated with eggs to serve as the controls. No significant direct effect could be attribut to the incorporated IAA on CH. However, the number of roots per explant (NR) and the total root len (NRxRL) of an explant did significantly influence CH. Although, incorporated IAA promotes the aver length of single roots (RL), length *per se* has no significant effect on the hatching of nematode eggs.