B-79 Rapid shoot proliferation from the axillary buds of a 50 to 60 year old clump of *Dendrocalamus giganteus* Munro (giant bamboo)

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Cloning of adult bamboo plants has not bee reported, despite several reports on bamboo tissue culture where seed or seedling derived explants have been used for production of propagules. Single node segments from a 50-60 year old clump of giant bamboo were induced to sprout *in vitro*. Bud dormancy and systemic culture contaminants were a major problem during culture initiation. It was possible to overcome these during some months of the year. Cultures were initiated during September 1996. Axillary shoots proliferated 1.9 fold every 14 days in a liquid medium with 6 mgl^{-1} BAP, 0.1 mg l^{-1} kinetin, 8% coconut water and 2% sucrose. A higher sucrose level of 4% reduced shoot proliferation. This is the first report of achieving continuous and rapid shoot proliferation from an adult clump in a species of bamboo. Rooting of shoots need to be carried out to make this into a viable method of cloning.

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