

EMBRYO CULTURE OF NUTMEG AND JACARANDA
AND PRELIMINARY STUDIES ON ANDROGENESIS AND
MICROGRAFTING IN WINGED BEAN

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Embryos of Jacaranda were cultured at various stages of fruit maturity. The plantlets were successfully transplanted in the soil.

Nutmeg (Myristica fragrans) embryos excised from immature seeds were successfully cultured on a nutrient medium. Although locating embryos in immature seeds was difficult aseptic transfer of embryos had no problems.

In winged bean (Psophocarpus tetragonolobus L.(D.C.) preliminary studies in attempts to change its twining habit to a bush type have been initiated. One such approach being attempted is through androgenesis which can bring to expression recessive genes hitherto unexpressed. Uninucleate microspores have been reported to give good results in other species. Our studies showed that flower buds of size about 4 mm in length contained newly formed uninucleate microspores. Aseptic transfer of anthers or pollen proved difficult. However, callus was obtained from the tissues surrounding the microspores.

Another approach to a bush type plant is through micrografting of apical meristems. Excision of apical meristems from buds in the axils of cotyledons in young seedlings proved easier than their excision from shoot apices. Therefore these buds will be used in future work.