

CREATION MOMENTS

Proclaiming Evidence for Truth

THIS WEEK'S CREATION MOMENT

Witchweed



Come unto me, all [ye] that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. – Matthew 11:28

The strange parasitic plant called witchweed can prevent crop plants from producing yields and is said to be responsible for intensifying the results of famine in Ethiopia.

Not long after germination, witchweed sends an enzyme "feeler" through the soil around it to find nearby roots. If the enzyme finds a root system, it will digest a few of the cells on the root surface. The damaged roots actually help the witchweed by sending out a chemical response that confirms their presence to the witchweed. The witchweed then grows an attachment organ to penetrate the neighbor's root system.

If the witchweed successfully attaches to a neighbor's root system, witchweed can enjoy a long and full life, being fed by its neighbor's roots. In fact, witchweed changes the hormones produced by its neighbor so that the neighbor's root system grows ever larger at the expense of the stem growth of the victim. While the victim may live its normal span, it will not be allowed enough strength to reproduce.

Witchweed is no simple plant. We learn from the witchweed that the Creator's unlimited imagination not only created some very strange living things, but also created some unique solutions to providing a means of living for them.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, I face problems in my life. I commend all of my cares and concerns into Your powerful, inventive and loving care. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Ref: "The underground sorcery of witchweed." *Discover*, Dec. 1985. p. 14. Photo: Plant roots with connected witchweed roots. Courtesy of USDA Forest Service. Licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Unported license.

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