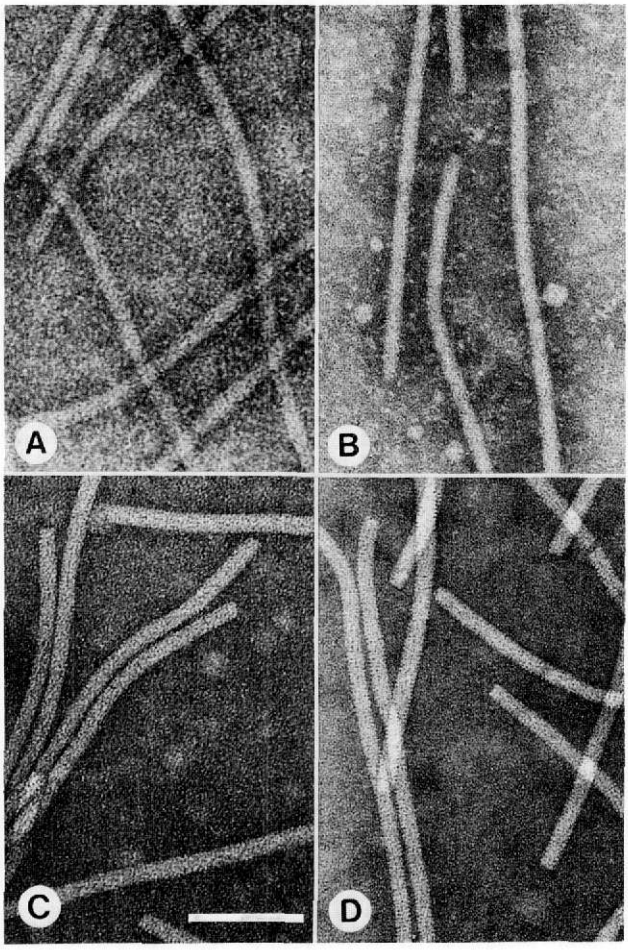

beam than other commonly used stains, including PTA, and unlike PTA, UA is not hygroscopic, allowing grids to be stored for indefinite periods without any special precautions. Grids prepared with PTA should be stored in a desiccator if they are not used promptly. Although UA is not compatible with BSA, it is compatible with bacitracin, a wetting agent that is generally superior to BSA (8). We normally use a 1% or 2% aqueous solution of UA containing 250 μg/ml bacitracin, prepared by carefully stirring in an equal volume of 500 μg/ml bacitracin to a 4% solution of UA. Never add dry bacitracin to UA solutions.

Uranyl Formate (UF). This stain is similar to UA except that it is somewhat more susceptible to damage by electron bombardment (but less so than PTA) and has a less immaculate appearance than