

Mold of the Month August 2005

Acremonium sp.



Acremonium sp. colony.



Acremonium sp. Oblong conidia accumulating at the apex of phialides.

Colony Description

Colony growth is moderately rapid, often compact and moist at first, becoming powdery with age, and may be white, gray, pink, rose or orange in color.

Microscopic Morphology

Hyphae are septate and hyaline. Phialides are mostly solitary, long, narrow and erect. Conidia are usually one-celled (rarely bicellular), hyaline or pigmented, oblong to ovoid, and mostly aggregated in slimy heads at the apex of each phialide or occasionally in chains.

Ecology

The genus *Acremonium* currently contains 100 species, of which most are saprophytic, being isolated from dead plant material and soil. *Acremonium strictum* is commonly encountered in wet, cellulose-based building materials suffering from chronic wet conditions. It can also be recovered from outside air samples.

Clinical significance:

Acremonium sp. is reported to be allergenic, and it produces Trichothecen mycotoxin which is toxic if ingested.