

Mold of the Month August 2008

Colletotrichum sp.



Colony of *Colletotrichum* sp.



Conidia of *Colletotrichum* sp.

Colony Description

The growth rate of *Colletotrichum* sp. is moderate. Colonies reach up to 4.5 to 4.8 cm diameter in 4 days on MEA at 25 °C. The surfaces of colonies are powdery to wooly. The color of the colony could be red, orange, brown, or light blue. Conidia group as acervuli which are usually setose.

Microscopic Morphology

The hyphae are septate. Conidia are hyaline, smooth-walled, 1-celled and later becoming 2-celled during germination. Conidia are falcate with a truncate base. They are curved at both ends. Conidia are aggregated in cream, orange, red or brownish slimy masses.

Ecology

Colletotrichum sp. is a saprophyte on dead plant substrates. It can be isolated from seeds, fruits, leaves, stems, flowers, and roots of plants.

Health Effect

Colletotrichum sp. is a very common plant pathogen. It causes lesions and rotten spots on the surface of seeds, fruits, leaves, stems, flowers, and roots of plants such as papaya, orchid, banana, mango, lawn leaf, avocado, and alfalfa. However, plant pathogenic fungi are used as a powerful weed control agent. A *Colletotrichum* sp can get involved in biocontrol of weeds.

No negative human effects are reported.