

# Mold of the Month - December 2007

## *Ascotricha sp.*



### Colony Description

An *Ascotricha sp.* colony grows moderately and is dull blackish-brown, with dark grey patches of conidiation.

### Microscopic Morphology

Teleomorph of *Ascotricha spp* is like *Chaetomium*. It discharges black spores from a perithecium. Asci contained in the perithecium are cylindrical and 8-spored. Ascospores are 1-celled, smooth-walled, and brown to black in color. Anamorph of *Ascotricha sp.* is reproduced by a terminal conidiogenous cell. Conidia are yellowish and spherical.

### Ecology

*Ascotricha* is cellulolytic. They can be isolated from damp sheet-rock paper as well as wood and straw containing materials.

### Health Effect

*Ascotricha* is a cellulolytic saprophyte. No information is available regarding the health effects or toxicity and allergenicity has not been studied.