

Mold of the Month: February 2008

Beauveria sp.



Beauveria sp. under scope



Beauveria sp. cultures

Colony Description

The growth rate of *Beauveria* sp. is moderately rapid. The surface is white at first then it often becomes pale yellow later. The reverse is white or pale. The texture is cottony, velvet, or powdery.

Microscopic Morphology

The hyphae are hyaline, septate and narrow. The conidiogenous cells on the hyphae are typically flask-shaped. They are aggregated in dense clusters. There are zigzagged filaments at the apex of the conidiophores. Conidia are produced from each bending point of the hyphae. Conidia are hyaline, spherical and smooth-walled.

Ecology

It is ubiquitous in plant debris and soil. *Beauveria* sp. is also isolated from foodstuff, infected insects, and indoor air environments.

Health Effect

The genus *Beauveria* sp. contains several species. The most common ones are *Beauveria bassiana* and *Beauveria alba*. This fungus is a virulent insect pathogen. It causes infections in insects and other animals. Infections in humans are very rare. It may be associated with keratitis and sometimes with pulmonary infection.