

# Mold of the Month: January 2009

## *Drechslera* sp.



### Colony Description

Colonies spreading, grey, and velvety.

### Microscopic Morphology

Spores of *Drechslera* occur individually and have very thick walls. In addition the septa (cross walls) between cells appear to be incomplete and are called pseudosepta. The shape of the spores varies. They can be straight, slightly curved, club-shaped, cylindrical, or elliptical. The texture on the surface of the spores is usually smooth, but occasionally may be warty. Several genera of very similar fungi including the genera *Drechslera*, *Bipolaris*, *Helminthosporium*, and *Exserohilum* have very similar spores and this spore type should be called *Drechslera*-type spores.

### Ecology

*Drechslera* is a cosmopolitan fungus; dematiaceous fungus primarily isolated from plants and soil. Some species are considered as plant pathogens.

### Health Effect

*Drechslera* can lead to opportunistic infections in both healthy individuals as well as immunocompromised individuals. It is occasionally a cause of phaeohyphomycosis, including keratitis, sinusitis, and osteomyelitis.