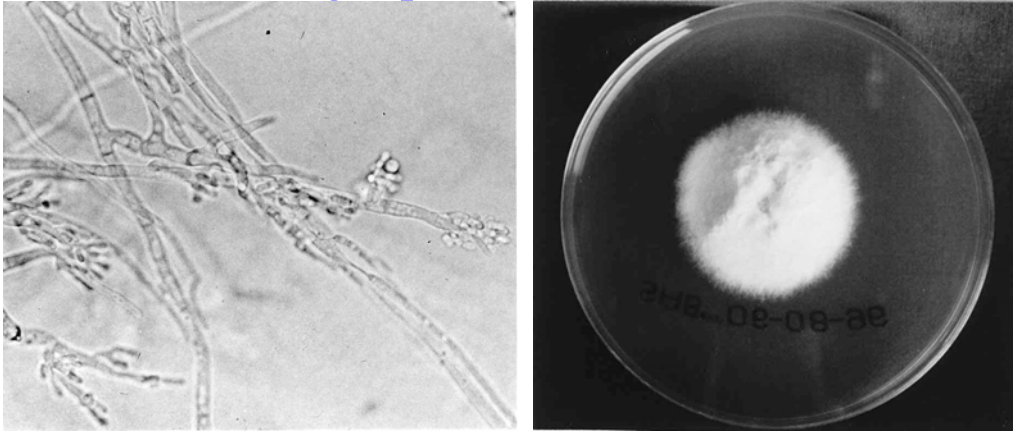


Mold of the Month: July 2009

Hormographiella aspergillata



left: Slide culture preparation of *H. aspergillata* showing hyaline septate hyphae without clamp connections.

right: *H. aspergillata* cultured from lung tissue after 4 days of incubation on Sabouraud agar.

Colony Description

Colonies growing rapidly, white to cream-colored, later becoming tan; aerial mycelium locally forming dense, white mycelia tufts; margin irregular.

Microscopic Morphology

Hyphae hyaline, 2-5µm wide. Conidiophores usually differentiated, septate, simple or sympodially branched in the apical part, bearing a cluster of conidiogenous hyphae of variable length. Conidiogenous hyphae becoming septate and disarticulating into arthroconidia. Conidia smooth-walled, hyaline, cylindrical, aggregating in slimy heads. Occasionally sclerotial bodies are formed.

Ecology

Species of this genus, which are anamorphs of ink-caps (mushrooms), are frequent in compost and in sewage. Most species show optimal development at 37°C.

Health Effect

Hormographiella aspergillata was isolated from human skin lesions on two occasions and from a fatal pulmonary infection in a leukemic patient. The species was isolated from sputum of a patient with chronic respiratory disease. Otherwise it is found in compost and in sewage.