

Mold of the Month - November 2007

Arthrographis sp

Colony Description

Arthrographis sp colonies appear to spread with slow to rapid growth. The colony texture is glabrous becoming velvety; color pale yellow on the surface and the reverse.

Microscopic Morphology

Hyphae septate, hyaline; conidiophores hyaline, simple or branched; 1-celled smooth-walled arthroconidia formed at the tips of conidiophores or intercalary in the hyphae; yeast cells often present in young colonies. *Arthrographis kalrae* is the most frequently seen species in the clinical laboratory. The presence of yeast cells and growth at 45°C are typical of this species.

Arthrographis is distinguished from *Geotrichum* and *Scytalidium* by the presence of definite conidiophores.

Ecology

The natural habitat of *Arthrographis sp* is soil and compost. They are cosmopolitan.

Health Effect

Arthrographis sp is occasionally isolated from respiratory secretions of patients with chronic pulmonary diseases, but connection with a pathogenic role has yet been made.

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