

Mold of the Month November 2008

Cylindrocarpon sp.



Conidia of *Cylindrocarpon* sp



Conidiophores of *Cylindrocarpon* sp

Colony Description

The growth rate of *Cylindrocarpon* sp. is usually rather fast. The color of the colony is hyaline or bright-colored (orange, brown or purple). The textures are velvety, woolly, or fealty.

Microscopic Morphology

The hyphae are septate and medium brown. Conidiophores are short, unbranched, and occasionally constricted at the basal septa. The apical cells of conidiophores produce one or two phialides. These phialides later produce other phialides. At maturity, there are numerous phialides rising like brushes. Conidia adhere in slimy masses. There are 2 kinds of conidia: microconidia are 1-celled; macroconidia are hyaline, straight or curved, with one to several transverse septa. Macroconidium lacks an asymmetrical foot cell, this is different from *Fusarium*. Chlamydoconidia may be present in at least 2-week old cultures, they are hyaline to brown, spherical, in chains or in clumps.

Ecology

There are about 35 species that are identified. *Cylindrocarpon* sp are saprophytic and feed on decomposition of xylan and cellulose. They can be isolated from plant roots, soil, potato tubers, alfalfa, sweet clover, birch wood, conifer swamps, barley roots, flax, and poultry feed.

Health Effect

Cylindrocarpon sp. can cause human mycetoma, keratitis, and cutaneous infection. The majority of *Cylindrocarpon* sp are plant pathogens, infecting woody plants.