

Mold of the Month October 2007

Arthrobotrys sp.



Arthrobotrys preying on nematodes



Erected conidiophores

Colony Description

Arthrobotrys sp. colonies spreading, thin, hyaline or pale pink. There are 47 species. Most species capture nematodes by means of an adhesive network, adhesive knobs or constricting hyphal rings.

Microscopic Morphology

Conidiophores erect, arising from the substrate, simple or branched, producing apical clusters of 1 to 4 celled conidia. There are conspicuous scars on the head of conidiophores when conidia are released.

Ecology

The natural habitat of *Arthrobotrys* sp. is soil, dung, moss, and decaying plant debris.

Health Effects

Arthrobotrys sp. show no known adverse health effects to human. They are undoubtedly important in controlling numbers of nematodes, including those causing damage to agricultural crops. *Arthrobotrys* sp. is a nematophagous fungi.

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