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Easily-wettable, a new mutant

C. P. Selitrennikoff
University of Wisconsin

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Abstract

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Selitrennikoff, C. P. Easily-wettable, a new mutant.

N. crassa conidio and aerial hyphoe are characterized, in port, by their hydrophobic nature. For example, when a drop of water is carefully placed on the aerial hyphal mass of a wild type culture on on agar slant (10 mm x 75 mm), the drop is not absorbed but rather remains intact suspended on top of the aerial mass. In contrast, when similar cultures of easily-wettable (eas) are so treated, the drop of water is immediately absorbed into the aerial hyphal mass. The eas strain was initially recovered from EMS-treated mnidia of strain 74-ORB-la and hm been subsequently backcrossed to strain 74-OR23-1A four times. eas strains are recognized not only by the "water-drop test", but also by their inability to release free conidia when slant cultures are inverted and tapped (Selitrennikoff and Nelson 1973 Neurospora Newsl. 20: 34). However, abundant free conidia are released when cultures (or loops of aerial material) are flooded with water. Strains of eas were found not to differ from wild type with respect to general morphological appearance, vegetative growth rote, female fertility and numbers of conidio produced/mg vegetative mycelium. The eas phenotype is easily recognized in auxotroph: eas double mutant strains as well as in conidial reparation: eas double mutant strains (scored by "water-drop test"). Preliminary mapping data suggest linkage to fl (II).

The ease of scoring the eas phenotype in a variety of genetic backgrounds may make this marker useful in linkage studier. That eas strains do not liberate free conidia until placed in water suspensions demonstrates their potential utility in teaching and also in laboratory me where airborn contamination is to be stringently controlled. eas strains of both mating types are available from FGSC. --- Deportment of Zoology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin 53706.