

Perithecial production - use of non-absorbant cotton

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Abstract

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The employment of the fruiting technique described below has been found effective in a number of different crosses made in Neurospora crassa.

Since it is generally observed in *Neurospora* that perithecia tend to form most profusely in regions of agar slants where the medium is thin and where better aerobic conditions exist than in other regions in the slant, the utilization of non-absorbant cotton was found useful. When partially submerged cotton was used in about 85 ml of the liquid crossing medium (without agar) contained in 150 ml Erlenmeyer flasks, the cotton provided just the right type of conditions and an aerial surface for the formation of perithecia. Crosses normally producing few or no perithecia with conventional agar slants, fruited luxuriantly in the cottoned media. In order to ensure partial submergence of the cotton in the medium, about 1/2" thick layer of the cotton was wrapped around a 3 x 3/8 inch test-tube (with 3/4" of the tube uncovered at the blind end) which was placed in the crossing medium with an extra pad of the cotton below and with the blind end of the tube towards the mouth of the flask. The tube acted as a float and kept a fair amount of the cotton well above the medium. In certain crosses, depending on the crossing medium and the strains used, a large amount of perithecia have been often found after 6 to 8 days of crossing. --Department of Botany, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaya.