Aspergillus flavus Infection on Preserved Eel *(Thysoidea macrurus)*

The fungus *Aspergillus flavus* was observed growing on a 2.1 m long specimen of eel *(Thysoidea macrurus)*. Half of the eel was submerged in 5% formalin in a loosely covered specimen jar. The fungus grew

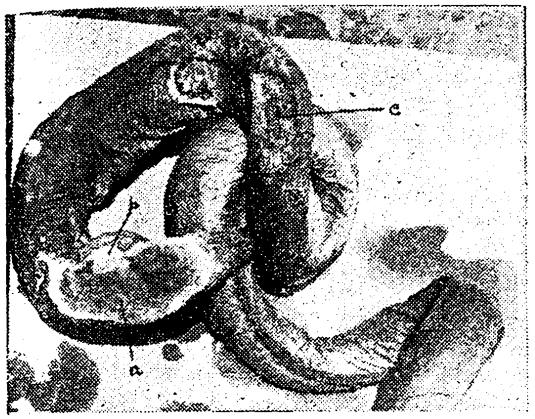

Fig. 1. The patch of the fungal growth on the preserved eel. a. Inner part showing heavy sporulation. b. White fluffy younger mycelial outline. c. The deeper wounds after the removal of the fungal mat from the patches on the abdomen.

on the eel skin as yellowish-green, heavily sporulating patches, with white fluffy younger mycelial outline spreading vigorously (Fig.1).

When the fungus was grown on potato dextrose agar (PDA) medium slants, it showed dense, dark green, sporulating heads on a pale yellow mycelial mat (Fig.2). No pigmentation was observed on the reverse of the slants. The skin on the head and body above the submerged parts had several such patches which grew deeper from the skin to the flesh. The infection initiated on the slime and then invaded the skin. Studies showed that the fresh, healthy specimens which were washed well to remove completely its slime and submerged completely in the formalin solution for three days and then transferred and kept in half submerged condition and innoculated with fungus afresh and kept loosely covered did not show any fungal growth.

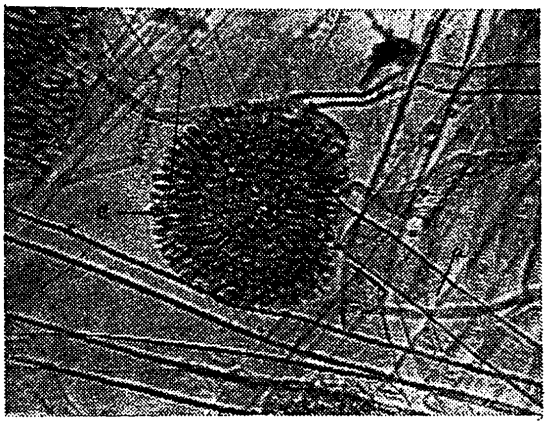

Fig. 2. Details of a conidial head of *Aspergillus flavus* a. Conidiophore b. Phialides. c. Conidia

Eels not properly washed off its slime and not submerged completely in the formalin solution appears to be susceptible to vigorously growing strain of *Aspergillus flavus*.

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