

From: drice@vines.colostate.edu (Doug Rice)
Subject: Re: Mould in Buildings
Date: 04 Apr 1996 00:00:00 GMT
Message-ID: <drice.20.3163E5CF@vines.colostate.edu>
references: <828628246_OASIS_@johnwilk.demon.co.uk>
organization: Colorado State University
newsgroups: bionet.mycology

In article <828628246_OASIS_@johnwilk.demon.co.uk> john@johnwilk.demon.co.uk (john
>From: john@johnwilk.demon.co.uk (john wilkinson)
>Subject: Mould in Buildings
>Date: Wed, 3 Apr 96 14:30:46 GMT

He went on, however, to state that
>condensation mould is completely different to mould produced
>by penetrating dampness (ie dampness such as rain soaking
>through a wall, dripping through a ceiling or even water
>from a bath seeping through a floor into the flat below).

>As if he was not in enough trouble he continued, stating
>that the two types of mould can be differentiated, even
>by simply looking at a photograph of the affected area of
>plasterwork.

The mould is
>black, clumped rather than evenly spread and the plaster on
>which it was growing was damp.

>I would be pleased to hear from anyone who can debunk the
>other witnesses statements. I will be not so pleased, but
>nevertheless grateful if anyone can substantiate his views!

Hello John:
Mold requires three things to flourish in any environment. A suitable
nutrient, a place to attach, and moisture. An airborne mold spore that lands
on a surface that provides food and water will grow. The mold is not picky
about its source of water.

Your adversary witness is assuming that mold must have a unique water source.
This simply is not true. I have isolated *Aspergillus niger* from rain soaked
carpets, penetration soaked walls, condensation soaked air filters and a
variety of foods. The *Aspergillus* does not look any different while growing
in these environments.

There are a variety of mold genera that can use cellulose as a nutrient. The
black one you describe on the paper of the plaster board may be *A. niger* or
one of the *Stachybotrys* (*atra* or *chartarum*).

Good luck with the case. Let me know if I can be of further assistance.
Doug

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"Moderation is for Monks, take big bites out of life."
--Lazarus