Sabouraud dextrose agar with and without chloramphenicol (0.05 mg/mL) and cycloheximide (0.5 mg/mL) and incubated at 26°C and 37°C respectively. The cultures were examined twice weekly for a period of six weeks. The different types of colonies were subcultured on Sabouraud dextrose agar slants and pure cultures of the isolates were identified on the basis of microscopic morphology and cultural characteristics.

Out of 40 soil samples analysed for the presence of fungi, 46 strains of fungi were isolated. Among the 46 strains of fungi isolated, 18 strains were *Cunninghamella* followed by *Fusarium* (13), *Aspergillus* (7), *Rhizopus* (4), *Penicillium* (2) and *Paecilomyces* (2) spp.

Of the various fungi isolated from the different soil samples the prevalence of *Cunninghamella* spp. was shown to be more in the present study. The next common genus in our study were *Fusarium* and *Aspergillus* spp. *Aspergillus* spp. was the commonest fungus isolated by other workers. Studies elsewhere reported *Geotrichum* and *Fusarium* spp. as common in the soil sample. Yet another study reported *Penicillium* as the second dominant spp. Other workers have reported *Acremonium* and *Pseudallescheria boydii* also in their studies from soil samples from Tamilnadu, Delhi, UP, Nepal, Andaman and Nicobar islands which we have not isolated. The causative agents of Mycetoma and Systemic mycoses, as reported by others workers, were not encountered in our study.

References


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Evaluation of Crystal Violet Blood Agar for Primary Isolation and Identification of Group A-β haemolytic streptococci

Dear Editor,

We read the article in your Journal, vol.22 (3); 2004 page 201, entitled “Evaluation of crystal violet blood agar for primary isolation and identification of Group A-b haemolytic Streptococcus” by K. Chawla and P. S. Rao. We wish to bring to your notice, that the concentration of crystal violet they have used 1: 5 x 10^4 units is too high and would inhibit also, many strains of group A - b haemolytic Streptococci. The reference, they have quoted, for this concentration, is the book on District Laboratory Practice in Tropical Countries, Part 2, by Monica Cheesbrough, page 160. However, page 387, of the same book has given the crystal violet concentration as 1: 5x10^5. We have rechecked both these concentrations in our laboratory and found that concentration of 1: 5x10^5 is appropriate i.e. supports the growth of b haemolytic Streptococci, whereas the concentration quoted by the authors is actually inhibitory to the isolates of b haemolytic Streptococci. Hence it is probable, that the concentration of 1:5x10^5 crystal violet quoted on page 160 in Monica Cheesbrough’s book is probably a printing error, since the same book has mentioned the concentration as 1:5x10^5 on page 387. Recommended concentrations of crystal violet in crystal violet blood agar are actually even lower (1: 10,00,000 and 1: 5,00,000) in standard publications.

References


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