

Use of conidial separation-defective strains

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Abstract

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Selitrennikoff, C. P. Use of conidial separation, -defective strains.

The problem of contamination of laboratories by *Neurospora macroconidia* is well known and has prompted the use of morphological mutants or even other fungi (e.g., *Sordaria*) for class experiments (Barratt 1965 NN#10:33; Gardner and Mertens 1970 Genetics Laboratory Investigations, Burgess). I suggest the use of conidial separation defective strains (csp-1 and csp-2). These mutants produce chains of conjoined conidia, yet are comparable in macroscopic appearance to normal cultures. The virtual absence of free conidia formed by these strains permits their experimental manipulation (even student loop transfers) without the fear of aerial dispersal of conidia. Prototrophic and auxotrophic cultures containing the csp-1 and csp-2 mutations are available from the Fungal Genetics Stock Center.

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