

1988 ASM ANNUAL MEETING
Miami Beach, Fla. 8-13 May 1988

Official Abstract Form

(Read all instructions before typing)

Start Potted Plant Fungal Spore Shedding. V. SMITH*, A. STREIFEL, F.S. RHAME, B. JUNL University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN.

Potted plants (PP) taken from hospital patient rooms were evaluated for their contribution to ambient airborne spore levels. In a HEPA clean room, a high volume Cassella/London slit sampler connected to a sealed .2 m³ box with a HEPA-filtered inlet was used to sample 3.5m³ (5 minute samples) of evacuated air from the box. Empty box controls were taken prior to plant sampling to establish the background spore level. A PP was placed in the box, air samples taken, and the box emptied and cleaned. Air was evacuated from the sealed box for five minutes to remove any residual spores after which a control sample was taken before the box was unsealed for the next plant sample. Inhibitory Mold Agar sample plates were incubated @ 37°C for 72 hrs before evaluation.

Total fungal cfu recovered from controls was 27 CFU/63 samples (0.12 CFU/m³). PP yielded 1354 CFU/44 samples (8.6 CFU/m³). PP samples were positive for *A. fumigatus* at 73% compared to 25% for controls. Mean *A. fumigatus* recoveries were 0.9 CFU/m³ from PP and 0.09 CFU/m³ from controls. The maximum *A. fumigatus* recovered was 12 CFU/m³. Average yield of *A. fumigatus* from soil samples of PP was 4.3x10⁴ CFU/g from 41% of the PP sampled. The percentage of samples with zero CFU/plate was 5% of PP versus 75% of controls.

In very low ambient spore content air, potted plants may be a significant source of airborne fungal spores. Elimination of these fungal reservoirs in certain patient treatment areas is prudent for patient protection.

Instructions

Indicate below the subject category designation from the list on p. iv, check your poster or slide session preference, complete the check list on the reverse side of this sheet, and sign your name in the space provided.

Indicate category designation from page iv.

L-2

Category designation

Poster/Slide Session Preference

Because of the flexibility in programming afforded by poster sessions, the Program Committee will attempt to schedule all abstracts which (i) are considered by elected divisional officers to be of acceptable quality and (ii) conform to rules established by the Program Committee. The decision on whether an abstract is scheduled in a slide or a poster session will be made by the elected Program Committee, which will be guided (but not bound) by the preference of the authors. Approximately 75% of the abstracts will be scheduled in poster sessions. By submitting an abstract, the author agrees that the paper will be presented as scheduled.

Please check one: Poster session preferred Slide session preferred No preference

Please provide telephone number of signing author ()

Area code