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Research Note

CONIDIAL ADHESION AND GERMINATION IN *Articulospora tetracladia* Ingold

Muzaffer Ahmed Khan

Botany Department, The Queen's University of Belfast

Northern Ireland, U.K.

Hutching and Jones (1981), in a scanning electron microscopic study on conidial adhesion and germination in aquatic hyphomycetes, reported that their conidia initiallyare physically held to a solid substrate and then adhesive structures are formed. These structures may be simple as in the case of *Articulospora tetracladia* Ingold, or more elaborate appresoria in the case of *Tetracladium marchalianum* de Wildeman.

They also reported that an extracellular sheath is produced by the conidium prior to germination, and conidia on germination produce hyphae which are enveloped in an extracellular polysaccharide sheath. This sheath may aid in attachment of the hyphae to the substrate. Appresoria, according to their findings, may be formed on the hyphae in particular species.

This communication reports that conidia of *A. tetracladia* (A3) also produce elaborate appresoria when conidia of this fungus settle down on a solid substrate. However, dense conidial population (conidia$>10^4$ cm^{-3}) of *A. tetracladia*, in author's experience, do not germinate. This may be a situation of self inhibition as described by Robinson (1978). Conidia of *A. tetracladia* readily germinate when their population is appropriately thinned. Also, mode of germination of conidia in *A. tetracladia* is affected by their disposition in an immersion system (Khan, 1986). Furthermore, while observing randomly selected 200 hundred conidia of *A. tetracladia* at a petri dish base, it was noticed that in 50% of the instances, germ tube emerged from the cell adjoining the appresorium.

Do appresoria mainly serve as an attachment device in aquatic hyphomycetes? This question might be fascinating for the aquatic mycologists.

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