DACTYLIUM DENDROIDES (BULL.) FR. MISNAMED AS POLYPORUS CIRCINATUS FR.*

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During the past four years a number of publications (Cooper, J.A.D. et al., 1950, Avigad, G. et al., 1961, 1962) have appeared in which, to our knowledge, the organism used in the experiments has been misnamed. We refer to the organism Dactylium dendroides (Bull.) Fr. which has been reported as Polyporus circinatus.

In a letter dated March 23, 1960 to the senior author, Dr. J.A.D. Cooper requested the varification of the identity of a "sample of mold" which he had obtained from Professor Chaves Batista identified as Polyporus circinatus and from which Dr. Cooper had prepared galactose oxidase. The organism which was submitted to Dr. Nobles for identification was not P. circinatus and was identified as Dactylium dendroides by Dr. W. L. Gordon, Senior Plant Pathologist, Canada Department of Agriculture, Winnipeg. This information was forwarded to Dr. Cooper in a letter dated April 14, 1960.

In 1959, after Dr. Cooper's paper had appeared, Dr. A. St. G. Huggett of St. Mary's Hospital Medical School, University of London, requested cultures of Polyporus circinatus from our laboratory. From these he was unable to obtain any significant amount of galactose oxidase. However, a culture he obtained from Professor Batista did produce the enzyme abundantly. This organism, forwarded to our laboratory, was identified here as D. dendroides.

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When the 1961 publication appeared (Avigad, G., et al., 1961) the junior author obtained from Dr. Horecker a culture of the organism which had been used in the experiments reported. This organism was also found to be D. dendroides. The culture, which came from Dr. M. Bacila, Universidade do Parana, Curitiba, Parana, Brazil, was identified by Dr. Batista according to information from Dr. Avigad. Subsequently, in September 1962 Dr. Avigad, et al., published a paper on D-galactose oxidase of P. circinatus using an isolate of the same organism.

The organism D. dendroides has a purple-pink pigment and closely resembles certain Fusarium spp. in appearance, but did not produce spores in malt agar cultures. P. circinatus produces a honey-yellow colony and chlamydospores after a few weeks growth in malt agar.

Interestingly, D. dendroides has been reported as an epiparasite of P. circinatus (Bisby, G. R., Buller, A.H.R., Dearness, J., 1929) and it is suggested that the parasite rather than the host was isolated from the sporophore of P. circinatus.

References

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