

induces a clear inhibition zone following incubation. On a *Bacillus megaterium* or *Sarcina lutea* test plate, the air-current will induce clear zone of ca. 20 mm after a treatment period of 3 min, ca. 30 mm after 10 min and 50–60 mm after 30 min. The activity therefore results from a volatile metabolite.

Thoroughly washed *Paecilomyces* mycelium becomes practically inactive and by adding glucose or sucrose the activity is restored completely. Heat-killed mycelium (70–80 °C, 30 min) is inactive.

The active gas is absorbed by activated charcoal and by water, the latter becoming active itself when saturated.

The physical identification of this active gas is now in progress.

***Debaryomyces hansenii*, a yeast showing an unusual resistance to polyene antibiotics**

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Polyene antibiotics which are frequently discovered during screening programmes may be identified by their characteristic UV-spectrum or a microbiological test using strains

of oomycetes. These fungi do not synthesize sterols and therefore show cross-resistance to all polyenes.

For further differentiation attempts were made to isolate polyene resistant strains applying the enrichment technique reported by Flickinger and Perlman (J. Antibiot. 28, 307, 1975). On a minimal medium containing yeast extract and amphotericin B as the carbon source a yeast was isolated from horse manure. Agar diffusion and MIC assays showed it to be resistant to amphotericin B but not to other polyene antibiotics tested. This selective response is consistent with an enzymatic degradation of amphotericin B. However growth experiments using the isolation agar demonstrated the ability of the isolated yeast to utilize yeast extract but not amphotericin B as a carbon source. Other mechanisms beside an enzymatic degradation of amphotericin B have therefore to be considered to explain the selective resistance to this yeast.

Carbon utilization experiments showed the strain to grow on a variety of sugars under aerobic but not under anaerobic conditions. Nitrate could not be used as a nitrogen source. Applying this pattern to the taxonomic identification scheme by Barnett and Pankhurst (A New Key To The Yeasts, North Holland Publishing Company, 1974) the strain was identified as *Debaryomyces hansenii*. Spore formation on a yeast extract/malt extract agar showed the spore form to be in agreement with the previous classification.

CONGRESSUS

Switzerland

16th EUCHEM conference on stereochemistry

Bürgenstock, near Lucerne, 27 April–3 May 1980

Information by the chairman: Prof. J.D. Dunitz, Laboratorium für Organische Chemie, ETHZ, Universitätsstrasse 16, CH-8092 Zürich.

International symposium on inborn errors of metabolism in humans

Interlaken, near Berne, 2–5 September 1980

Note: change of dates. For information write to: Mrs Sonja R. Wyss, Medizinisch-chemisches Institut der Universität, Bülhlstrasse 28, CH-3000 Bern 9, Switzerland.

Federal Republic of Germany

International symposium of melatonin

Bremen, 28–30 September 1980

For information write to the scientific secretariat: Dr. N. Birau, Institute for Preventive Endocrinology, Schwachhauser Heerstr. 52, D-2800 Bremen 1/BRD.

Poland

VI international congress of protozoology

Warsaw, 5–11 July 1981

General information by: Dr Stanislaw L. Kazubski, Secretary general, Departement of Cell Biology, M. Nencki Institute, 3, Pasteur St., 02-093 Warsaw/Poland.

Czechoslovakia

International congress of polarography, in memoriam Jaroslav Heyrovsky

Prague, 25–29 August 1980

Information by Dr J. Kůta, secretary of the congress, Vláška 9, 118 40 Praha 1, Malá Strana, Czechoslovakia.

Great Britain

4th meeting of European neuroscience association

Brighton, 13–20 September 1980

Plenary lectures will be presented by H. Barlow, M. Burger, A. Burgen, E. Zaidel, S. Thesleff, P. Andersen, D. Ploog and L. Heimer.

For further information, please write to the secretary of the meeting, 142 Oxford Road, Cowley, Oxford OX4 2DZ, England.

Italy**8th congress of the international primatological society***Florence, 5 July 1980*

This symposium will be held on 'Regression of atherosclerosis in nonhuman primates'. Chairman: M. R. Malinow, Oregon Regional Primate Research Center, 505 N.W. 185th Avenue, Beaverton, Oregon 97005/USA.

Belgium**3rd international symposium on quantitative mass spectrometry in life sciences***Gent, 10-13 June 1980*

Information can be obtained from: Prof. Dr A. De Leenheer, Laboratoria voor Medische Biochemie en voor Klinische Analyse, Rijksuniversiteit Gent, De Pintelaan 135, B-9000 Gent, Belgium.

USA**13th Miles international symposium***18-20 June 1980*

The symposium on 'Nutritional factors: modulating effects on metabolic processes' will be held at Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions. Chairman: R. F. Beers. For further information write to: E. G. Basset, Coordinator, Miles Laboratories, P.O. Box 40, Elkhart, In. 46515/USA.

7th international convocation on immunology*Niagara Falls, New York, 6-10 July 1980*

The symposium will cover 'Immunobiology of the major histocompatibility complex'. For information write to Dr James F. Mohn, Director, The Center for Immunology, Room 210 Sherman Hall, State University of New York at Buffalo, Buffalo, N.Y. 14214/USA.

Instructions to authors

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