

Terrestrial Fungi from Water and Submerged Mud Polluted by the Industrial Effluents (Aswan, Egypt)

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Abstract: Sixty-four species in addition to one variety representing 31 genera of terrestrial fungi were recovered from surface water and submerged mud collected monthly (12 months) from five successive water sites exposed to the industrial effluents of Kima factory for fertilizers at Aswan. The monitored physico-chemical characteristics varied depending upon the site and time of sampling. There are variations in diversity and abundance of isolated fungi depending upon the employed nutritive media (glucose or cellulose), tested sample (water or mud), site and the time of sampling. The poorest samples in fungi were generally those collected during higher temperature months and from sites exposed directly to the industrial effluents. *Aspergillus* and *Trichoderma* were the most prevalent genera.

Key words: Terrestrial fungi, industrial effluents, water, mud

Introduction

Despite an increasing number of publications dealing with the terrestrial fungi from different types of soils, as yet, relatively limited information is available about the terrestrial fungi inhabiting water (Park, 1974; Nasar and Munshi, 1980; Mangiarotti and Carreta, 1984). In Egypt, some investigations were carried out dealing with the occurrence, distribution and seasonality of terrestrial fungi in various unpolluted water areas (El-Hissy, 1974; El-Hissy *et al.*, 1982; Khallil, 1990) as well as from submerged mud (El-Hissy *et al.*, 1982; El-Nagdy, 1981 and Khallil, 1984). However, few studies were conducted to isolate terrestrial fungi from water and submerged mud polluted by some industrial effluents (Khallil and Abdel-Sater, 1992). Thus, the present work aimed to study the monthly fluctuations of terrestrial fungi inhabiting water and submerged mud which are exposed to the industrial effluents of Kima factory for fertilizers (Aswan, Egypt).

Materials and Methods

During the period from January to December (1996), Surface water (S) and Submerged mud (M) samples were monthly collected from five successive sites (site 1- site 5) along the canal (site 1-site 4) and River Nile (site 5) that located one Km north the point of mixing effluents of polluted canal of Kima factory with the River Nile. These sites (Fig. 1) and samples were named as follows:

- S1: Surface water samples at the beginning of discharging the effluents of Kima factory for fertilizers in the canal water.
- S2: Surface water samples at one Km north S1.
- S3: Surface water samples at 3 Km north S1.
- S4: Surface water samples at the beginning of mixing the effluents of polluted canal of Kima factory with River Nile water.
- S5: Surface water samples from River Nile after one Km north the point of mixing the effluents of polluted canal of Kima factory with the River Nile water. Submerged mud samples were also taken at the same locations of surface water samples and named as: M1, M2, M3, M4 and M5.

Using glucose and cellulose-Czapek's agar media, terrestrial fungi were isolated from surface water and submerged mud as described by Khallil (1990) and El-Hissy *et al.* (1990a), respectively. Some physico-chemical characteristics of surface water and submerged mud samples were determined. These characteristics are temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, total soluble salts, organic matter, calcium, magnesium, sulphate, nitrate, phosphate and

phosphorus contents. Using the methods described elsewhere (El-Hissy *et al.*, 1990b).

Results and Discussion

Regarding the diversity and monthly fluctuations of terrestrial fungi, sixty-four species in addition to one variety belonging to 32 genera were isolated from surface water and submerged mud samples on glucose and cellulose-Czapek's agar media (Tables 1-4). Thirty-nine species representing 20 genera and 41 species belonging to 23 genera were isolated from surface water samples on glucose and cellulose-Czapek's agar, respectively (Tables 1 and 2). Furthermore, forty-one species in addition to one variety representing 19 genera and 42 species belonging to 23 genera were isolated from submerged mud samples using glucose and cellulose-Czapek's agar media, respectively (Tables 3 and 4). These terrestrial fungi originate either from air or washed with rain water (Sparrow, 1968). More specifically, Park (1972a,b) reported that these fungi mainly originate from animal or plant, the whole or part, living or dead and soil or litter having been in contact with water. Most of these fungi were previously isolated from various water areas, soil, air, seeds and grains in Egypt by several authors. The total counts of terrestrial fungi inhabiting surface water and submerged mud exhibited some regular distribution and almost increased from site 1 (which directly exposed to the industrial effluents) to site 5 (where the effluents are considerably diluted). The lowest count was recorded in samples (either surface water or submerged mud) collected from site 1 whereas the highest total count was in those collected from site 5. Khallil and Abdel-Sater (1992) reported a similar inhibitory effect on fungal abundance in Nile water exposed to the industrial effluents of superphosphate factory at Assiut. It was found that the richest samples in fungal populations were those collected during the low or moderate temperature months. Similar observations were reported by several authors. On the contrary, El-Hissy (1979a) observed that summer months were the richest in terrestrial fungi whereas the winter months were the poorest.

It was interesting to notice that fungi isolated from the water and mud samples on glucose-Czapek's agar, were nearly the same as those isolated on cellulose-Czapek's agar medium except that; *Aspergillus candidus*, *Acremonium strictum*, *Cephalosporium* species, *Cochliobolus lunatus*, *Curvularia clavata*, *C. ovoidea*, *Cylindrocarpum* species, *Emericella nivea*, *Fusarium semitectum*, *Geotrichum candidum*, *Gibberella fujikuroi*, *Mycosphaerella tassiana*, *Myrothecium* species, *Penicillium brevicompactum*, *P. frequentans*, *P. lanosum* and *P. nigricans* which were isolated only on cellulose agar. On the other hand, some fungal species

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chrysogenum was the commonest species irrespective to the tested substrate and nutritive media.

Fusarium was represented by six species in low, moderate or high occurrence depending upon the tested samples (water or mud), site employed, nutritive medium and sampling time (Tables 1-4). This genus was repeatedly isolated from water habitats (e.g. El-Nagdy, 1981; El-Hissy *et al.*, 1990b; Moharram *et al.*, 1990; Khallil and Absel-Sater, 1992).

Acremonium butryi, *Emericella nidulans*, *Mortierella* species, *Scopulariopsis brumptii* and *Syncephalastrum racemosum* were of moderate to low occurrence and recorded from water and mud samples on both glucose and cellulose-Czapek's agar media at 28°C. *Mortierella* species was recorded from water samples only on glucose but from mud samples on glucose and cellulose-Czapek's agar. *Alternaria alternata*, *Myrothecium roridum* and *Torula herbarum* were isolated from mud samples only on cellulose agar whereas from water samples on glucose and cellulose agar. Khallil and Abdel-Sater (1992) recorded *Emericella nidulans* and *Nectria haematococca* in high incidence and *Syncephalastrum racemosum* in rare occurrence from water, soil and air polluted by the industrial effluents of Manquabad superphosphate factory at Assiut.

Acremonium strictum, *Acremonium* species, *Alternaria alternata*, *Botryotrichum atrogriseum*, *Chaetomium* species, *Cladosporium* species, *Cephalosporium* species, *Cochliobdus lunata*, *Curvularia clavata*, *C. ovoidea*, *Cylendrocarpon* species, *Doratomyces* species, *Emericella nidulans* var. *lata*, *E. nivea*, *Fennellia flavipes*, *Geotrichum candidum*, *Gibberella fujikuroi*, *Humicola grisea*, *Hypomyces chrsospermae*, *Rhizopus stolonifer*, *Monocillium indicum*, *Mycosphaerella tassiana*, *Myrothecium roridum*, *M. verrucaria*, *Myrothecium* species, *Nectria haematococca*, *Scopulariopsis brevicaulis*, *Trichurus spiralis*, *Torula graminis* and *T. herbarum* were recovered during this study with low frequency of occurrence. It is concluded that the poorest samples in terrestrial fungi were those collected from the site 1 which is exposed directly to the industrial effluents and this elucidate that these effluents exhibited an adverse effect on fungal population. Similar findings were obtained by Khallil and Abdel-Sater (1992).

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