The Presence of the Fungus *Pythium acanthicum* Drechsler in Soil on Guam[1]

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In a preliminary survey of soil fungi on Guam, *Pythium acanthicum* Drechsler was isolated from the vicinity of the roots (rhizosphere) of the grass *Dactyloctenium aegyptium* (L.) Richt. [determined by M. V. C. Falanruw, University Herbarium] on the campus of the University of Guam. This fungal species was recently reported from Hawaii (Adair, 1968) but has not been previously reported from Guam.

The isolation of *P. acanthicum* was accomplished by a modification of a leaf-baiting method described by Srinivasan (in press) for the isolation of *P. graminicola* Subramaniam, a sugarcane root pathogen. Srinivasan's method involved the exposure of small pieces of boiled sugarcane leaf to a soil sample in a beaker of water. In this method, leaf pieces 0.5×2 cm in size were placed around the sides of the beaker, with the lower end of each piece submerged in the soil-water mixture. This was followed by plating the leaf pieces on water agar (2% agar in water) for the recovery of colonizing organisms. The isolation described in this report was made with pieces of boiled *D. aegyptium* leaf, rather than with the sugarcane leaf.

P. acanthicum was not parasitizing the *D. aegyptium* roots at the time of sampling, although it was present in the rhizosphere. This fungal species is known to be mycoparasitic, attacking certain other *Pythium* species and a number of other soil fungi (Drechsler, 1943; Haskins, 1963). This species may be parasitizing soil fungi in the *D. aegyptium* rhizosphere, rather than infecting the roots of the grass.

References

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