

A SPORE FORM COMMON TO THREE ETIOLOGIC AGENTS OF CHROMOBLASTOMYCOSIS.*

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Three fungi are known to be etiologic agents in chromoblastomycosis. These fungi are indistinguishable in the tissues, but in culture are very different. In *Phialophora verrucosa* Thaxter 1915 small egg-shaped spores are budded out successively in the cup-like mouth of a flask-shaped conidiophore. In *Hormodendrum pedrosoi* Brumpt 1922 larger, oval spores are borne in branching conidial chains on simple or branched conidiophores, and in acro-pleurogenous arrangement at the tips of simple conidiophores. In *H. compactum* Carrión 1935 subspherical spores, separated by wide septa, are borne in branching conidial chains on simple or branched conidiophores.

Because of similarity in the parasitic phase of these three fungi, medical mycologists have suspected a close relationship between them. Wilson *et al.*¹, examining the first two species, suggested the possibility that they might be two phases of the same fungus. They were not able to present proof in support of this thesis.

We recently found, in one strain of *H. pedrosoi*, in addition to abundant *Hormodendrum* spores, a few conidiophores and conidia of the *Phialophora* type. Subsequent examination of four Puerto Rican, and two South American strains of this species, and of the one described strain of *H. compactum* revealed sporulation of this type in all. It was entirely typical and unmistakable in each of the strains in which it was observed. In all cases the type of sporulation already known as characteristic for the respective species was strongly predominant. The anomalous type was rare, and there is not, at present, sufficient grounds for declaring the three species synonymous. On the other hand, this

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¹ Wilson, S. J., Hulsey, S., and Weidman, F. D. Chromoblastomycosis in Texas. Archives Derm. and Syph. 27: 107-120. 1933.

discovery of a specialized spore form, produced in common by three well differentiated species which are now distributed in two remote genera, and which are of wide geographical separation as well, gives convincing evidence of a close relationship, previously only suspected. In a forthcoming paper we will present the photographic evidence of these findings, and discuss the taxonomic implications involved.