COMPARATIVE GROWTH CHARACTERISTIC OF DIFFERENT PARENT MONOCULTURE AND NEW HYBRID CULTURES OF *PLEUROTUS* SPECIES

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Abstract: In present investigation the growth characteristics of different parent monospore of *Pleurotus* species were recorded i.e. appearance of colony, colour of mycelium, shape of mycelium, zonation, type of margin, sectoring formation and development of pigment and exudates. Further total of 78 new hybrid strains of different *Pleurotus* species were tested for mycelial growth characteristics, 17 strains shows Intermediate growth, 20 appressed growths, 21 thin growth and 20 hybrid strain gave fluffy growth of mycelium. 45 hybrid strains had given white colour, 22 milky and 11 hybrid strains were given snow white colour of mycelium. It was also recorded that 30 hybrid strains gave irregular shape and 48 hybrid strains gave almost circular shape of mycelium. 39 hybrid strains gave zonate at periphery, 27 strains faintly zonate and 9 hybrid strains gave inconspicuous zonation. Uneven margin were observed in 33 hybrid strains whereas even margin were observed in 40 strains and sectoring formation were recorded in 23 hybrid strains out of 78 hybrid strains.

Keywords: *Pleurotus* spp., Colony character, Monoculture, Mycelial growth, Hybrid cultures

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