

A FUNGOUS CONTAMINATION OF SHAVING CREAM

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A manufacturing company producing shaving cream reported that it was having trouble with some of the jars of cream developing a brown discoloration.

Jars of the cream were obtained from the company. The discoloration was found to be at the surface and extremely superficial. Examination of the stained soap revealed the presence of a fungal mycelium.

Several fungi were isolated including a brown organism identified as an *Aspergillus*. This organism was most abundant and most often recovered in isolations. In addition, a green *Penicillium*, a pink yeast, an *Oidium*, a *Trichoderma* and a bacterial organism occasionally appeared in our isolations. All organisms isolated were grown on potato dextrose agar and cultural and morphological characteristics were studied.

Soaps having had various treatments with respect to sterilization and the addition of antiseptics were obtained from the factory and used as media upon which to grow the fungi previously isolated. As a result of such inoculations it was found that only the brown *Aspergillus* gave any appreciable growth on a soap medium, and it produced in all cases the characteristic brown stain typical of that in the soap first brought to our attention.

This fungus was identified as an *Aspergillus* belonging to the ochraceous group. It developed slowly on the soap but eventually covered the surface. The thermal death point was determined as being between 90° and 100° C.