

Cladosporium sp. (Clad-o-spore'ee-um)

This genus is widespread and is regularly encountered in both outdoor and indoor

air. Outdoors it is commonly isolated from air, rotten organic material, food, straw, and soil. Indoors it may be found growing on leather goods, paint, textiles, from the surface of fiberglass duct liners in the interior of supply ducts, and is frequently found in elevated levels on water-damaged materials. It can thrive in various indoor environments, appearing light green to black (the black mold on air vent grills is usually *Cladosporium*). The genus *Cladosporium* includes over 30 species. *Cladosporium* spores are easily made airborne and as such are a common cause of respiratory problems. It is a common fungus that is a known and documented allergen causing Type I allergies (i.e. asthma, hay fever) and it may be an agent for hypersensitivity diseases. It has been reported to be an opportunistic pathogen causing edema, keratitis, onychomycosis, pulmonary infections, and sinusitis.