

Iain Cooley & Tiana Menon
Stressed Mold

The project 'Stressed Mold' was divided up into three separate sections. In the first section of the project, the experimentalists identified different mold colonies and then tested to see which species produced antibiotics. The results were tested through growing the mold on lawns of E. Coli which were in petri dishes. After the mold had grown, the ring of E. Coli decay was calculated. The original hypothesis of "All mold species produce antibiotics" was rejected as the Rhizopus mold did not produce any antibiotics as opposed to the Penicillium which did. In the second step of the project, the experimentalists tested how stress affects the level of antibiotic production. To test this, two different sections of the same mold colony underwent the same process mentioned above. This was done nine different times. The original hypothesis of "Stress will increase antibiotic production" was rejected as there wasn't a significant difference between the two different stressed molds. The third stage went into more depth and asked the question, "What other variables affect antibiotic growth?" Originally, the hypothesis was "Different variables will affect antibiotic output." To test this, the media changed from the generic agar to liquid media such as chicken broth, beef broth, and V8 Pomegranate Fusion. Unfortunately, the experimentalists couldn't complete this experiment as there was a contamination in majority of the petri dishes. There was no time to duplicate the experiment to observe if the results were either a random occurrence of a constant contamination.