

# Air Sampling and Analysis for Mold in Hills Building UMass

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## Room 362A surface sample

### Introduction

During extensive cleaning on Saturday October 29<sup>th</sup> 2011, custodial staff highlighted a potential area of mold growth in the custodial closet on the third floor of Hills South. The area was located in the left corner on a wood shelving brace (upright) and looked black. Crack in the ceiling above was noted.

### Methods

The suspect surface was examined using a tape sample. Clear tape is pressed onto the surface and removed and attached to a microscope slide for later examination. The tape was mounted in lactic acid with cotton blue stain and a coverslip applied. The tape was scanned microscopically at low power over a broad area. Closer inspection of particular areas of the tape was performed at 40X magnification. The method is not quantitative but is an excellent way of determining if mold growth is present on a surface and allows for identification of the type of mold.

### Results

Room 362A – black streak 12” long by ½” to 1” wide on wood  
Heavy mold growth of *Aspergillus niger*.

### Interpretation and recommendation

Although the tape sample indicates heavy mold growth, the area affected is small. I recommended to the custodians that they use a wet cloth to clean the area. Moisture is possibly entering the space from the custodial closet directly above on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor. Check that there are no leaks in sink drain or cracks in floor in closet above.