

May 16, 1978

Dr. J. J. Ellis  
ARS Culture Collection  
Fermentation Laboratory  
USDA Northern Regional  
Research Center  
1815 North University Street  
Peoria, Illinois 61604

Dear Dr. Ellis:

On April 7 you kindly sent four lyophyls of *Neurospora* cultures, and I now report back to you regarding them.

NRRL 2884 (Oncham strain). This is indeed of interest to us, and is similar to other strains from oncham that I or others have collected directly in West Java. We now think that these strains should be designated *N. intermedia* rather than *N. sitophila*. The main criterion for doing so is fertility and production of viable black ascospores in test crosses with strains of each of the *Neurospora* species that have been designated species testers. NRRL 2884 is fertile and conspecific with our *N. intermedia* testers, but not with *N. sitophila* (or *N. crassa*). I enclose a copy of our 1976 paper (*Evolution* 30:281-313), in which criteria for species identification are discussed. I suspect that the strain in question was designated *sitophila* by its collectors because the imperfect form had been called *Monilia sitophila*, and that there was never a sound basis for doing so. Dr. C. C. Ho at the University of Malaysia has studied numerous oncham strains, and he agrees with us in designating them *N. intermedia*.

NRRL 2164. *Neurospora tetrasperma*. The lyophyl proved to inviable. You may wish to check your remaining cultures for viability. This could be of interest to us. The inviable lyophyl was dated 11/10/52.

NRRL 2332, 2333. These (Lein stocks) we already have from another source. I am therefore returning the unopened lyophyls for you to return to stock.

Thank you very much for sending these cultures to us.

Sincerely,

David D. Perkins  
Professor of Biology

DDP:gm  
Enclosures

If you don't object, I would propose to send NRRL 2884 to the Fungal Genetics Stock Center, Arcata, CA. to add to their extensive collection of *Neurospora* stocks. Reed 5/31/78