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**EFFECTS OF TEMPERATURE ON THE GROWTH CHARACTERISTICS  
IN CULTURE OF ISOLATES OF SEED-BORNE  
*MACROPHOMINA PHASEOLINA***

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Growth characteristics in culture of 31 isolates of *Macrophomina phaseolina* from a range of plant hosts and from different locations were studied on a potato dextrose agar medium at temperatures of 20°C, 25°C, 30°C, 35°C and 40°C.

Characteristic differences were observed between isolates in growth rate and colony morphology. Growth was negligible at 20°C but increased with temperature to an optimum near 35°C and then declined rapidly, only small irregular colonies being developed at 40°C.

At 30°C, six isolates showed fluffy growth, thirteen were appressed to the medium, and the rest were intermediate in appearance. The optimum temperature for growth also varied with the isolates, maximum growth occurring at 35°C for 14 isolates and at 30°C for the rest. A slight variation from the optimum growth temperature was accompanied by a marked reduction in the growth rate.