TITLE: Prospection of environmental *Cryptococcus neoformans* strains producing mycocins

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Some yeasts such as *Cryptococcus neoformans* have the capacity to produce mycocins, which are extracellular molecules with antimicrobial activity. The objective of this work was to isolate environmental *C. neoformans* samples, in pigeon faeces and to evaluate the capacity of mycocins production against the pathogenic strains of *C. neoformans*. Isolation and identification of the environmental strains of *C. neoformans*: 206 dry samples of pigeon excreta were collected in the State of Paraná, isolation was performed using niger agar and identification through morphological and biochemical tests. The environmental strains of *C. neoformans* producing mycocins against the pathogenic strains of *C. neoformans* were screened using the culture medium Sabouraud-Dextrose Agar-Modified with Methylene Blue. There was growth of suspicious *C. neoformans* colonies in 20.9% (43/206) of the samples. Showing that, the confirmation of the samples obtained through the identification, had 53.5% (23/43) of these suspicious colonies of *C. neoformans*. Screening of the 23 strains of *C. neoformans* indicates that 13.0% (3/23) of them were able to produce mycocins.

Keywords: mycocins, antifungal, isolation.

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