

Isolation of several species of the genus *Aspergillus* from soil of intrahospital ornamental plants Aislamiento de diversas especies del género *Aspergillus* de la tierra de plantas ornamentales intrahospitalarias.

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The earth of ornamental plants is one of the main reservoirs of *Aspergillus* type of fungi in hospital areas. We studied 174 ornamental interior plants from a hospital at Santiago. Samples were obtained from the soil surface and sowed in Sabouraud-glucose agar, adding streptomycin and G-penicillin. After 72 h of culture, at least one strain of *Aspergillus* was isolated from 140 samples (80.5%). The most frequently isolated strain was *A. fumigatus* (129 samples), followed by *A. niger* (75 samples). *A. fumigatus* and *A. niger* were the only isolated strains in 65 and 11 samples respectively. These findings confirm that ornamental plants can be important reservoirs of *Aspergillus* strains, a potential infectious agent for immunocompromised patients, in hospital areas.