The mulberry silkworm Bombyx mori L. is an important economic insect. It is affected by several micro-organisms\(^1\). Aspergillosis is a serious disease of silkworms in Japan, and young worms are highly susceptible\(^2\). Hitherto, only one species, Aspergillus tamarii Kita, has been reported to cause the disease in mulberry silkworms in India\(^3\). The occurrence of Aspergillus flavus Link on mulberry silkworms is reported here.

During studies on fungal diseases of silkworm, some dead worms (figure 1) showing yellow-green colour were noticed. A microscopic study revealed the presence of mycelia and fungal spores characteristic of Aspergillus. The pathogen was directly isolated from the body surface of dead worms with sterile forceps and cultured following the stamp agar method\(^4\). The culture plates were incubated at 28±2°C and 80±5% relative humidity. Initially the culture colonies were white and after 48 h turned yellow and later, green. The fungus was identified as \textit{A. flavus} Link.

The characters of the isolated fungus are similar to earlier descriptions for the species\(^4\). Hyphae are 715±175 \(\mu\)m long and 9.76±2.36 \(\mu\)m broad. The hyphal walls are rough, broadening upwards and gradually enlarging into vesicles. The vesicles are dome-shaped and measure 28.71±6.61 \(\mu\)m in size. Conidiophores arise from submerged hyphae. Conidial heads are different shades of yellow-green and have chains of conidia. Conidia, 4.65±0.85 \(\mu\)m, are pyriform to globose and less coarsely roughened. The vesicles bear a sterigma, which is in single series in young forms and in double series in mature forms.

The author is grateful to Dr Z. Lawrence, CAB International Mycological Institute Identification Services, Surrey, UK, for identifying the species, and to Dr S. Miyajima, Aichi-ken Agriculture Research Centre, Aichi-ken, Japan, for a gift of stamp agar.

17 August 1988