

Title Influence of water activity and temperature on growth of isolates of *Aspergillus* section *Nigri* obtained from grapes

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### Abstract

The effects of water activity ( $a_w$ ) and temperature on growth of *Aspergillus* section *Nigri* isolated from wine grapes were investigated on an agar medium with composition similar to that of grapes. Temperatures in the range of 10–37 °C were tested. Optimum temperatures for growth were between 30 and 37 °C. Water activity levels ranging from 0.90 to 0.995 were tested. Optimum  $a_w$  for growth was 0.98 in most cases. Statistical differences were found among the groups tested (*A. carbonarius*, *A. niger* aggregate and *A.* section *Nigri* uniseriates). Growth rates models for the factors assayed have been obtained.