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**Q 42** A Dip-Strip Device for Detecting Spoilage Fungi.  
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The use of selective and differential media dried on a filter paper matrix has already proven successful for bacteria and yeasts. A medium utilizing Gentamicin as a selective agent and a Redox indicator for differential detection was incorporated into a 7/8" x 7/8" filter paper pad. The level of reduction was correlated with fungal colony forming units on potato dextrose agar using strains of five different genera of fungi (Fusarium, Cephalosporium, Aspergillus, Penicillium, Rhizopus). An appropriate series of blocks were developed to indicate levels of growth and reduction on the pad. The pads were then used in a variety of fluids putatively contaminated with fungi and compared with PDA and base medium. In addition, the pads were evaluated independently by a number of collaborating laboratories on site and in both instances the correlation between dip-strip readings and plate counts was at the 95% confidence level. The advantages of this system are not only ease of handling, lack of necessity for the standard microbiological equipment, but also results were always obtained with equal or shorter incubation periods than standard plating procedures.