Mycology for librarians: everything you never wanted to know about fungus



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Photo courtesy of Kathie Hodge.

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Amanda Rinehart

Mycology 101

Circle of life Microbes Fungi Reproduction Types/classification Spread Food/habitats Toxicity Identification Control

> Book-eaters Fun facts!



Photo courtesy of the Library of Congress

Molds, mildew, and mushrooms...

Mycology – study of fungus



Photo courtesy of Milliped

Mold = common term, generally "fluffy" fungi on food Mildew = common term, generally flat growing fungi Mushrooms = fungi with fleshy, above-ground fruiting structure

Fungi = molds, mildew, mushrooms, and yeasts



Fungi and Yeasts and Bacteria, oh my...



Photo courtesy of Dennis Kunkel. Copyright 2009 Dennis Kunkel Microscopy, Inc. (www.denniskunkel.com).



Chitin



Helicosporium griseum image courtesy of Cornell Fungi at Flickr.com Ant image courtesy of Pedro Moura Pinheiro' Shrimp image courtesy of Renee Comet







Wheat Rust

Life Cycle of Puccina graminis





Phycomyces blakesleeanus, truffle spores, images courtesy of Kathie Hodge.

Fungi sexual states



Amanita phalliodes illustration courtesy of von Albin Schmalfuß.

Dissemination

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http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0003237

- Mechanical
- Air
- Water
- Insects/animals



Combine image courtesy of the US Agricultural Research Service.

Yafetto, L., Carroll, L., Yunluan, C., Davis, D. J., Fischer, M. F., Henterly, A. C., Kessler, J. D., Kilroy, H. A., Shidler, J. B., Stolze-Rybczynski, J. L, Sugawara, Z., & Money, N. P. (2008). The Fastest Flights in Nature: High-Speed Spore Discharge Mechanisms among Fungi. *Plos ONE*, *3*(9), 1-5. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0003237. Retrieved from http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0003237

Food...

Facultative heterotrophs- cannot make their own food, but under stress can take advantage of multiple food sources



Healthy wood photo courtesy of Constantin Sander.SymbolNeotyphodium coenophialum in fescue leaf courtesy of the US Agricultural Service.Degraded wood photo courtesy of Robert A. Blanchette and Joel A. Jurgens, University of Minnesota.

Temperature and Humidity

- Temperature growth is highly variable
- Indoor relative humidity below 70%

Relative humidity = ratio of water vapor to maximum possible water vapor

Influenced by: air pressure (elevation) moisture in the air temperature

Basic Biology

- Large cells
- Hard cell walls
- Complicated and flexible lifecycles
- Distinctive spores, basis for classification
- Mechanisms to spread spores
- Flexible living and eating habits

Bad fungi

- Allergies, asthma (~5%)
- Infections
 - Superficial
 - Immune compromised
 - 4 outdoor human pathogens
 - Organic dust toxic syndrome
- Toxic compounds (mycotoxins)
 - Mushroom poisoning (~90% Amanita phalloides)
 - Large, relatively immobile molecules
 - Warfare "Yellow Rain", aerosolized

Amanita phalliodes illustration courtesy of von Albin Schmalfuß.



Black Mold

- Dematiaceae 36 species
- ~ 50 Stachybotrys sp.

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S. chartarum (S. atra) S. Chlorohalonata

Infant pulmonary hemorrhage 1993-94 No causational evidence

Photos courtesy of Dennis Kunkel. Copyright 2009 Dennis Kunkel Microscopy, Inc. (www.denniskunkel.com). Photo removed due to copyright restrictions. Please visit <u>www.denniskunkel.com</u> and search for image 22016A.

Identification

- Microscope
 - Tape mount spores (colonies or spore trap)
 - View under 40X or 60X
 - Identify with key





Barnett, H. L. (1960) *Illustrated genera of imperfect fungi* /Minneapolis : Burgess. Ulloa, Miguel,, Hanlin, Richard T.,, Aguilar, Samuel.Aguirre Acosta, Elvira. (2000) *Illustrated dictionary of mycology* /St. Paul, Minn. : APS Press.

Person at microscope photo courtesy of Bill Branson.

Identification con't.

- Selective culture media
- Metabolic fingerprint
 - BioLog.com
- DNA



Bonald M. Atlas



Atlas, Ronald M., Parks, Lawrence C. (1993) *Handbook of microbiological media* /Boca Raton : CRC Press.

Biolog and 96-well plate image courtesy of Amanda K Rinehart. Stained DNA photo of Joseph Elsbernd.

Methods of eradication

- Physical removal
 - Flame, UV light, lasers
 - Scrubbing, removing fungal items
- Environmental dormancy (humidity, temperature)
- Fungicide/fungistatic
 - Fumigation exclude oxygen (methyl bromide, ethylene oxide)
 - Surface protectant (iodine, copper, sulfur, organic compounds)
 - Systemic many organic compounds (plants and animals only)

Some book eaters...

Aspergillus sp.

Fusarium oxysporum

Aspergillus sp. light microscope image courtesy of US Department of Health and Human Services.

Aspergillus sp. SEM image courtesy of US National Institute of Health.

Aspergillus alliaceus colonies photo courtesy of Ninjatacoshell.

Fusarium oxysporum light microscope image courtesy of Gerald Holmes, Valent USA Corporation, Bugwood.org. *Fusarium sp.* colonies photo courtesy of estherase.

SEM Fusarium oxysporum spores courtesy of Amanda K Rinehart.

More cellulolytic fungi...

Alternaria solani





Chaetomium globosum



Wet paperback novel >

Alternaria solani light microscope image courtesy of Paul Bachi, University of Kentucky Research and Education Center, Bugwood.org. Alternaria sp. Courtesy of Ninjatacoshell.

Chaetomium sp. light microscope images courtesy of Kathie Hodge.

And even more ...

Penicillium notatum



Trichoderma sp.

Wet paperback novel \rightarrow

Penicillium notatum colonies photo courtesy of Crulina 98. *Penicillium sp.* Light microscope photo courtesy of Y_Tambe. *Penicillium sp.* SEM image courtesy of AJC1. *Trichoderma sp.* colony courtesy of Kathie Hodge.

Trichoderma harzianum light microscope image courtesy of the US Agricultural Research Service.



Without fungi, we wouldn't have...

- leavened bread, yogurt, soy sauce, miso, or any alcohol.
- food supplements and additives, such as carotene dye, B12, and citric acid.
- antibiotics such as penicillin cephalosporin, and griseofulvin (anti-fungal)
- statins for high cholesterol
- immuno-suppressants for organ transplants

Fun facts...

- The fungal cannon (*Pilobolus cystallinus*) is the fastest known organism in the world
- The largest organism in the world is a fungus (*Armillaria ostoyae*); over 4 square miles wide and at least 2400 years old in eastern Oregon
- St. Anthony's Fire, a hallucinogenic disease and possibly the basis of the Salem Witch Trials, is caused by a fungus, *Claviceps sp.*
- You can make both paper and ink from mushrooms!

Coprinus comatus ink photo courtesy of Kathie Hodge.



Selected Resources

American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine. (February 24, 2011). *Adverse human health effects associated with molds in the indoor environment*. Retrieved from <u>http://www.acoem.org/AdverseHumanHealthEffects_Molds.aspx</u>

Clarke, J.A., Johnstone, C. M., Kelly, N. J., McLean, R. C., Anderson, J. A., Rowan, N. J., Smith, J. E. *A technique for the prediction of the conditions leading to mould growth in buildings*, Building and Environment, Volume 34, Issue 4, 1 July 1999, Pages 515-521, ISSN 0360-1323, 10.1016/S0360-1323(98)00023-7.

Szczepanowska, H. M. & Moomaw, W. R. (1994). *Laser stain removal of fungus-induced stains from paper*. JAIC, 33:2:25-32. Retrieved from <u>http://cool.conservation-us.org/jaic/articles/jaic33-01-002.html</u>

U. S. Department of Labor. *A brief guide to mold in the workplace*. SHIB 03-10-10. Retrieved from <u>http://www.osha.gov/dts/shib/shib101003.html</u>

World Health Organization. (2009). *WHO Guidelines for Indoor Air Quality:* Dampness and Mould. Retrieved from <u>http://www.osha.gov/dts/shib/shib101003.html</u>