

FUNGAL GLOSSARY

NAME	NATURAL HABITAT/DISTRIBUTION	RELATED ILLNESS	RELATED TOXINS
<b>Acremonium</b>	Filamentous fungi most are saprophytic being isolated from dead plant material and soil. May also be found in damp carpet and gypsum board.	Several species are recognized as opportunistic pathogens of man and animals, causing mycetoma, mycotic keratitis and onychomycosis.	
<b>Alternaria</b>	Dematiaceous fungus commonly isolated from plants, soil, food, and indoor air environments.	Plant pathogens; common allergens in humans	
<b>Ascospores</b>	Frequently found indoors on damp substrates Once in the air, the spores serve as dispersal units as they are carried by the wind. This Class consists of several different species.		Ergot Alkaloids
<b>Aspergillus</b>	Commonly isolated from soil, plant debris, and indoor air environments.	Some Aspergillus species cause disease in humans and animals.	Ochratoxins aflatoxin
<b>Aureobasidium</b>	Has worldwide distribution, commonly isolated from plant debris, soil, wood, textiles, and indoor air environment.	It may cause dermatomycosis, pulmonary mycosis with sepsis and other opportunistic infections.	
<b>Basidiospores</b>	Composed of a very diverse community of spores. Capable of causing “dry rot” which can destroy the wood structure of buildings.	Opportunistic infections are caused only on rare occasions.	
<b>Beauveria</b>	<i>Beauveria</i> is ubiquitous in plant debris and soil. Also isolated from foodstuff, infected insects, and indoor air environment.	It may be associated with keratitis.	
<b>Bipolaris</b>	<i>Bipolaris</i> is a large genus of dematiaceous hyphomycetes with more than 100 species, most of them being saprobes in soil and pathogens of plants.	Some of the saprobic species are potentially able to infect humans and animals; three well-known pathogenic species.	
<b>Botrytis</b>	A filamentous fungus isolated from decaying plants; it is more commonly reported from tropical and temperate areas; affects many plant species.		
<b>Chaetomium</b>	Strongly cellulolytic molds commonly found in soil, on paper, straw, cloth, cotton and other cellulose-containing substrates. Thermophilic and neurotropic in nature.	Encountered as causative agents of infections in humans.	mycotoxins
<b>Cladosporium</b>	Dematiaceous mold widely distributed in air and rotten organic material and frequently isolated as a food contaminant.		
<b>Curvularia</b>	Dematiaceous, filamentous fungus; facultative pathogens of soil, plants, and cereals.	Can be a contaminant and cause infections in humans and animals.	
<b>Epicoccum</b>	Dematiaceous, mitosporic mold widely distributed and commonly isolated from air, soil, and foods. Also, found in some animals’ dander and textiles.	Causative agent of leaf spots of various plants.	
<b>Fusarium</b>	Filamentous fungus widely found on plants and within soils of crops such as rice, bean, soybean and others.	Common contaminant and well-known plant pathogen, it can cause various infections in humans.	Fumonisin Trichothecenes Zearalenone
<b>Mucor</b>	Filamentous fungus found in soil, plants, decaying fruits and vegetables. <i>Mucor</i> is ubiquitous in nature.		
<b>Myxomycetes/ Smut/Periconia</b>	Found on decaying plants and soils.		

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<b><i>Nigrospora</i></b>	Filamentous, dematiaceous fungus widely distributed in soil, decaying plants, and seeds.		
<b><i>Paecilomyces</i></b>	A common environmental mold that is widespread in composts, soils and food products, indoor air, wood, and carpet dust.	Corneal ulcer, keratitis, and endophthalmitis may develop following extended wear contact lens use or ocular surgery.	
<b><i>Penicillium</i></b>	A filamentous fungus that is widespread and found in soil, decaying vegetation, and air. Genus contains several species.		Patulin
<b><i>Pithomyces</i></b>	Found to be growing on paper or decaying plants.		
<b><i>Polythrincium</i></b>	This fungus is often associated with leaves and other plant material.		
<b><i>Rust</i></b>	Must have living plant material available for them to grow. Usually not found indoors unless host plants are present.		
<b><i>Scytalidium</i></b>	This genus of anamorphic fungi has a widespread distribution and contains 18 species.	An occasional agent of nail or skin infections.	
<b><i>Stachybotrys/Memnoniella</i></b>	An antigenic green-black mold that grows on wood, paper and cotton products provided there is constant moisture. Filamentous fungi are occasionally isolated as a contaminant from nature and indoor environments.	In infants, Stachybotrys has been associated with pulmonary hemorrhage, which can cause bleeding in the lungs. Associated with "sick building syndrome" at times, it may also cause allergic reactions.	trichothecene mycotoxins satratoxin
<b><i>Torula</i></b>	Often found growing in soil, dead herbaceous stems, wood, grasses, sugar beet root, groundnuts and oats. Grows well on general cellulose surfaces but spores may take special nutrients to develop or may be completely absent.	Type I allergies (hay fever, asthma).	
<b><i>Trichophyton</i></b>	Trichophyton is a dermatophyte fungus that is primarily isolated from wood, soil, humans, or animals. Certain Trichophyton species are cosmopolitan while others have a limited geographic distribution.	A genus of fungi, which includes the parasitic varieties that cause tinea, including athlete's foot, ringworm, jock itch, and similar infections of the nail, beard, skin and scalp.	
<b><i>Trichoderma</i></b>	A genus of fungi that is present in all soils; commonly found on gypsum board and water saturated wood, wallpaper, carpet and mattress dust, paint, and air-conditioning filters.	Human infection by species of Trichoderma is limited to individuals with severely weakened immune systems.	trichothecene mycotoxins
<b><i>Ulocladium</i></b>	Dematiaceous filamentous fungus that inhabits the soil and decaying plants, paper, textiles, and wood. Commonly considered an indication of water intrusion.	May very rarely cause human disease.	
<b><i>Verticillium</i></b>	Widely distributed filamentous fungus that inhabits decaying vegetation and soil.	May very rarely cause human disease but is associated with human allergic responses.	



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