

Diagnostic Mycology for Laboratory Professionals

Part One--Yeast

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The presenter states no conflict of interest and has no financial relationship to disclose relevant to the content of this presentation.

OUTLINE

- I. Medical mycology basics
 - A. Comparisons with other life
 - B. Classification
- II. Identification of clinically-significant yeast
 - A. Cell morphology hints
 - B. Cultivation hints
 - C. Rapid and definitive methods
- III. Antifungal susceptibility testing

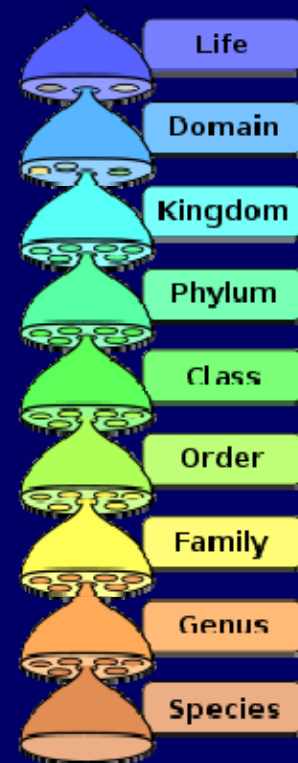


"D#*%it, Jim,
I'm not a physician."

The Basics

KINGDOM DIFFERENTIATION

Characteristic	Fungi	Plantae	Bacteria [†]	Animalia
Eukaryote	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Membrane-bound organelles	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Non-mitochondrial ribosomes	80S	80S	70S	80S
Chlorophyll	None	Yes	Some	No
Obligate anaerobes	None	None	Some	No
Specialized tissue	Sort of	Higher plants	No	Yes
Sterols in membrane	Yes	Yes	<i>Mycoplasma</i>	Yes
Cell wall	Chitin, mannan, glucan, chitosan, glycoprotein	Cellulose	Peptidoglycan	No



en.wikipedia.org

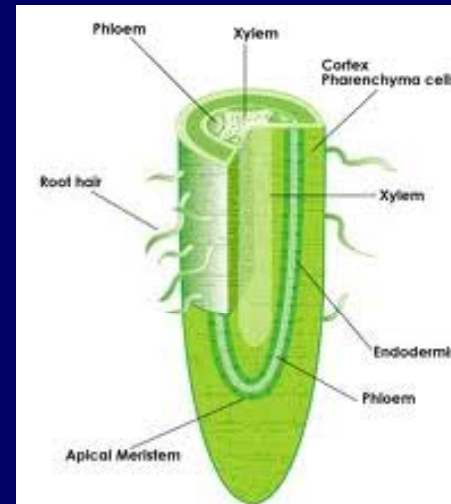
[†]Six-kingdom classification consists of either two Bacteria kingdoms or two Protista kingdoms

SCOPE OF FUNGI

- At least 100,000 named fungal species
- ~1 million to 10 million unnamed species;
1000 to 1500 new species per year
- Fewer than 500 named species associated
with animal or human disease
- Less than 50 are pathogenic in healthy
human hosts

FUNCTIONALITY OF FUNGI

- Pathogenesis (plants)
- Secondary metabolites
- Symbiosis
- Heterotrophy



FUNCTIONALITY OF FUNGI

● Pathogenesis (humans)

-- Generally more chronic than acute

-- Generally involves predisposition

Chemotherapy-induced neutropenia

Organ transplantation

Corticosteroids

Broad-spectrum antimicrobials

Parenteral nutrition

Dialysis

Invasive medical procedures

HIV

Diabetes

Alcoholism

Intravenous drug abuse

Intensive care population (burns, NICU)

Malignancy

Other immune deficiency

-- Certain infections can be “signal diseases”

PAST TAXONOMY

- Mode of reproduction important

Holomorph	
Teleomorph	Anamorph
Sexual reproduction	Asexual reproduction
Fusion of two nuclei into zygote	Mitosis
Perfect Fungi	“Fungi Imperfecti”
<i>Filobasidiella neoformans</i>	<i>Cryptococcus neoformans</i>

- Type of sexual reproduction important

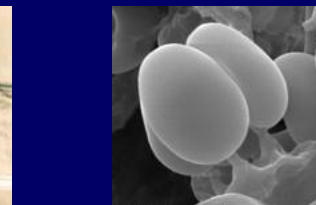
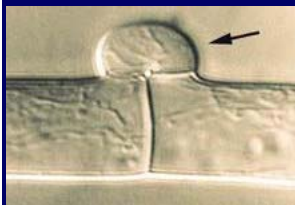
PAST TAXONOMY

Phylum Zygomycota



Zygophores meet and fuse
(zygosporangium)

Phylum
Basidiomycota



Clamp connections
facilitate basidium

Phylum Ascomycota



Nuclear division
inside ascus (bag)

Phylum
Deuteromycota

NO SEXUAL REPRODUCTION
OBSERVED

CURRENT TAXONOMY

Phylum Zygomycota

Subphylum Mucoromycotina

Rhizopus, Mucor, Lichtheimia (Absidia)

Subphylum Entomophthoromycotina

Conidiobolus, Basidiobolus

Phylum Basidiomycota

Phylum Basidiomycota

Cryptococcus, Trichosporon anamorphs

Phylum Ascomycota

Phylum Ascomycota

80% of medically-important fungi

Phylum Deuteromycota

Not widely utilized due to PCR

CLASSIFICATION OF FUNGI

- Taxonomy
- Disease

Deep-seated (disseminated) mycoses

Opportunistic mycoses

Aspergillosis

Candidiasis

Mucormycosis

Subcutaneous mycoses

Mycetoma

Chromoblastomycosis

Superficial mycoses

Dermatomycosis

Tinea

Onychomycosis

Piedra

CLASSIFICATION OF FUNGI

- Taxonomy
- Disease
- Cell morphology (conidiogenesis)

Blastic

Enlarge, then divide

blastoconidia

phialoconidia

annelloconidia

poroconidia

Thallic

“Divide”, then enlarge

arthroconidia

aleurioconidia

chlamydoconidia

CLASSIFICATION OF FUNGI

- Taxonomy
- Disease
- Cell morphology (conidiogenesis)
- Colonial morphology

Yeast
Mo(u)ld



UNIFYING CONCEPTS

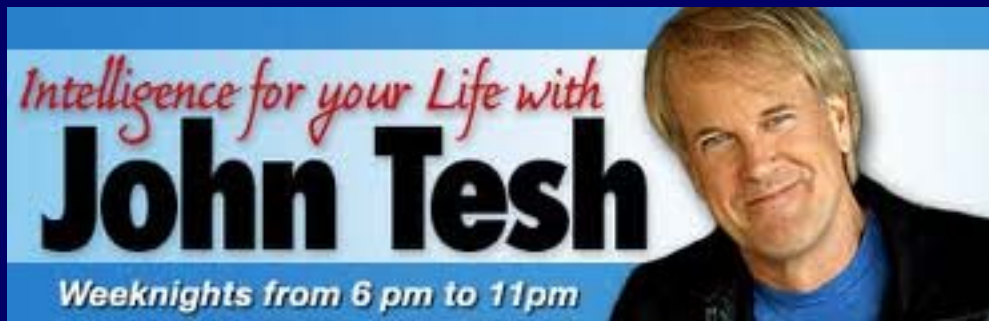
Microscopic observation from primary specimens

Direct detection from primary specimens

Presumptive identification
(colony, growth distribution, cell morphology)

Rapid diagnostics

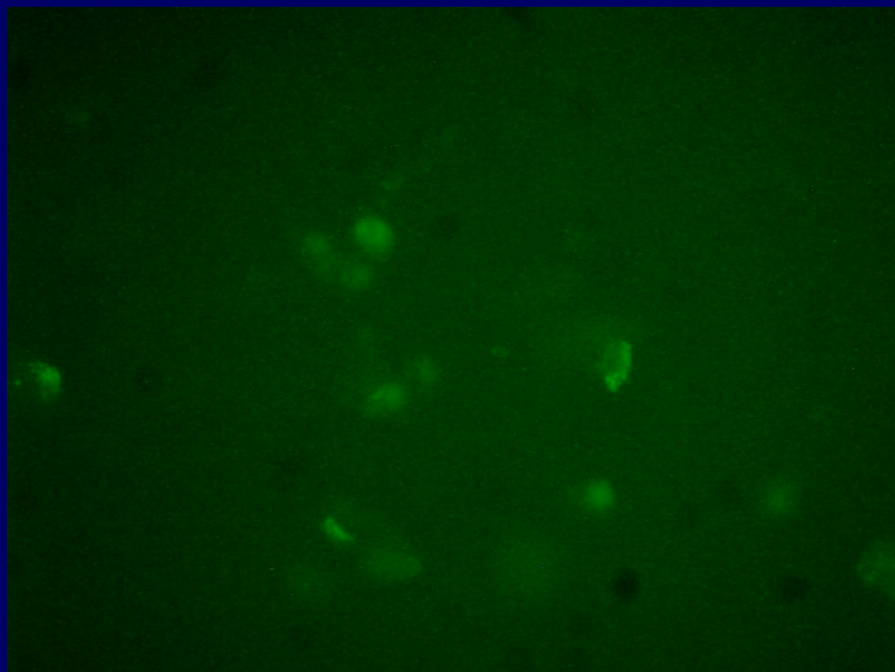
Definitive identification



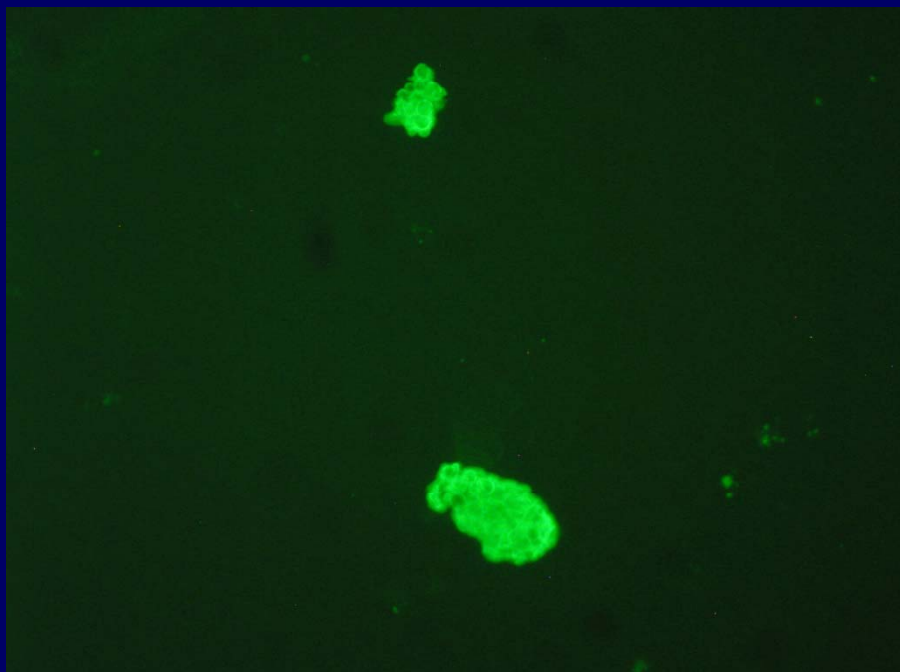
The Pretenders

30-year-old Male with HIV

- Shortness of breath, productive cough, night sweats, poor oral intake, weight loss
- Vitals
 - $T_{\max}$ 101° F
 - Tachypnea (22/min)
 - Tachycardia (95/min)
 - Blood pressure 103/63
- Studies
 - pO₂ 87% on room air
 - CD4 count 17/mm³
 - Albumin 2.9 g/dL
 - Bilateral diffuse infiltrates



Expectorated sputum



Bronchoalveolar lavage

Pneumocystis jirovecii (formerly *carinii*)

- Protozoan??

Antifungals ineffective

No ergosterol

“Life cycle”

- Fungus??

Chitin

~Ascospores internally

Stains with “fungus” stains

- Bacterium??

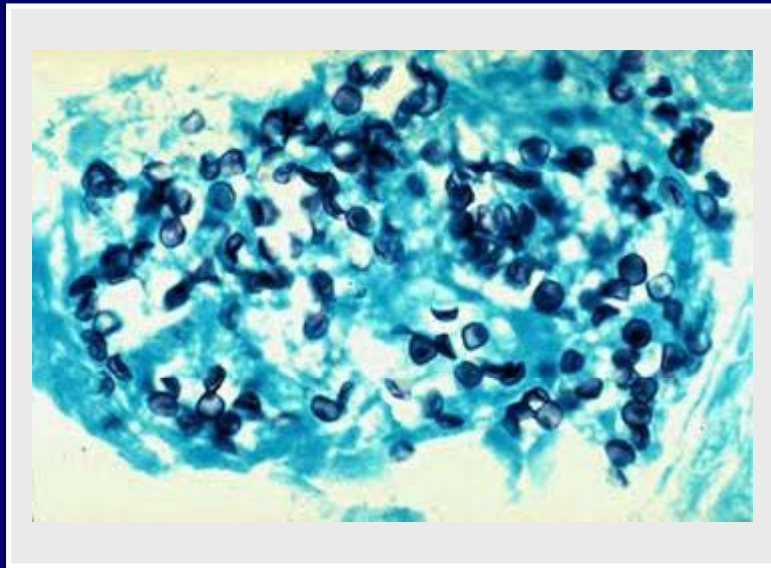
Trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole

- Different species infect different hosts

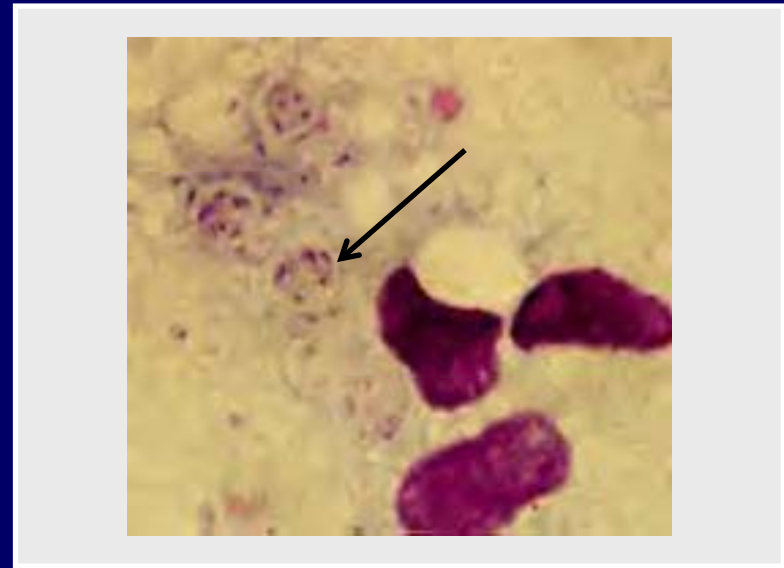
- Nothing *in vitro*

Pneumocystis jirovecii (formerly *carinii*)

- Serology, nucleic acid detection not useful
- Cyst wall, intracystic body stains



Gomori methenamine silver



Giemsa

Pneumocystis jirovecii (formerly *carinii*)

- 98.4% agreement between toluidine blue (histology) and fluorescent monoclonal antibody (microbiology)

J. Clin. Microbiol. 25: 1837-1840; 1987

- 15% sensitivity in a cohort of expectorated and induced sputum specimens collected from AIDS population

Arch. Pathol. Lab. Med. 112: 1229-1232; 1988

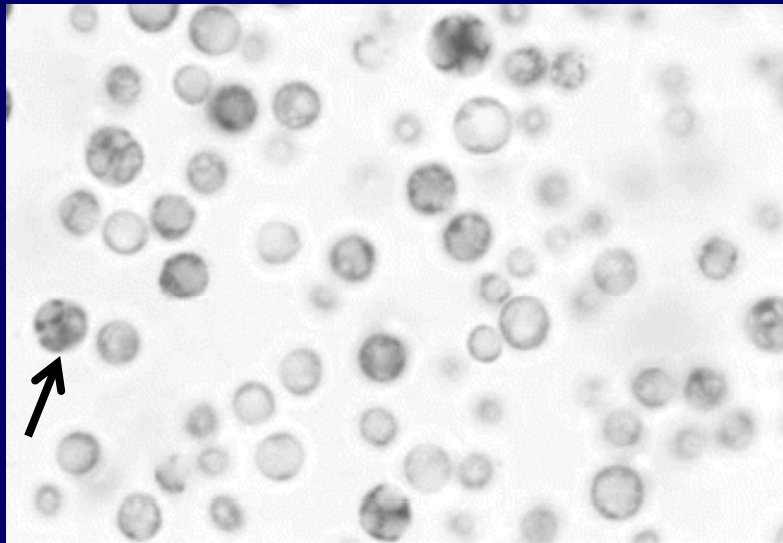
Geotrichum spp.

- Yeast-like mold
- Debilitated hosts; bronchial manifestations, rare disseminated disease
- Inhibited by cycloheximide; urease-negative



Prototheca wickerhamii

- Yeast-like achlorophyllous alga
- Verrucous cutaneous infections
Olecranon bursitis
- Sporangia with septations



“BLACK YEASTS”

- Able to produce melanized budding cells at some (early) stage in life cycle
- Most also produce true mycelium; therefore, identification based on asexual reproduction
- Many examples within Ascomycota and Basidiomycota; lots of name changes

Exophiala spp.

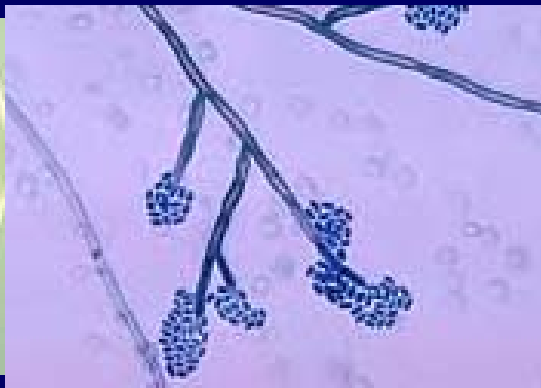
Aureobasidium pullulans

Hortaea werneckii

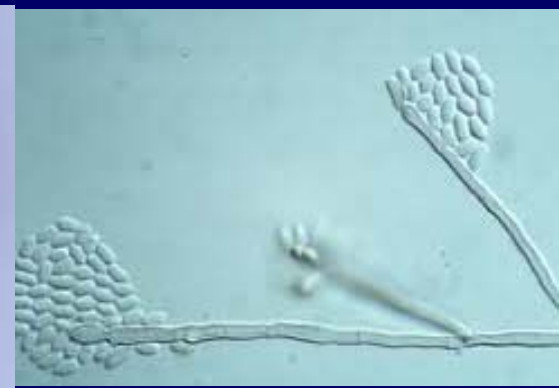
“BLACK YEASTS”

- Slow-growing; some are very slow-growing
- Differential optimum growth temperatures

● <i>E. jeanselmei</i>	mycetoma phaeohyphomycosis
<i>E. dermatitidis</i>	phaeohyphomycosis predilection for CNS; ocular
<i>H. werneckii</i>	tinea nigra
<i>A. pullulans</i>	common contaminant phaeohyphomycosis



Exophiala jeanselmei



Exophiala dermatitidis



Aureobasidium pullulans



Hortaea werneckii

“BLACK YEASTS”

Organism	Casein utilization	Tyrosine utilization	Growth in 15% NaCl	KNO ₃ assimilation	Maximum growth temperature
<i>E. jeanselmei</i>	-	+	-	+	≤ 37° C
<i>E. dermatitidis</i>	-	+	-	-	42° C
<i>H. werneckii</i>	+	-	+	+	Variable

Ustilago spp.

- “Corn smut fungus”
- Inhaled and subsequently isolated from sputum; rarely implicated in human disease
- White, pasty, moist, yeast-like at first; becomes tan/brown, mycelial within 20 days



The Contenders

Rhodotorula spp.

- Proclivity to impact terminal stages of carcinoma and bacterial endocarditis
- Urease-positive; rare rudimentary pseudohyphae
- *R. mucilaginosa* utilizes KNO_3 ; *R. glutinis* -



Sporobolomyces spp.

- Rare pathogenesis in immunocompromised patients
- Best growth at 25° C; forcible discharge of kidney-shaped ballistoconidia, forms satellite colonies



Malassezia furfur

- Normal skin flora in more than 90% of adults
- Tinea versicolor; cradle cap; dandruff
- Catheter-related sepsis (neonates, TPN) with secondary pneumonia
- Optimal recovery of the organism involves acquisition of blood via lipid infusion catheter
- Grows poorly at 25° C; solid medium overlaid with thin layer of olive oil (not for veterinary)

Malassezia furfur



Tinea versicolor



Cells round at one end
and bluntly cut at other
(no constriction);

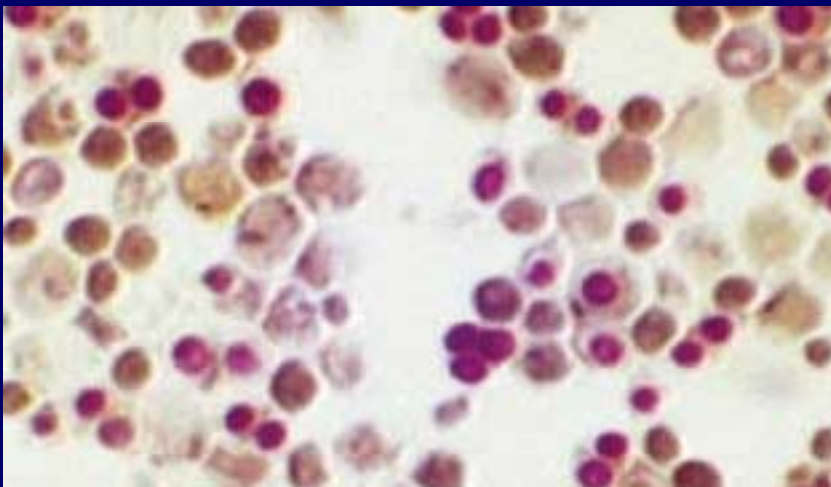
Collarette difficult to
discern by conventional
microscopy

Urease-positive

Saccharomyces cerevisiae

- Typically non-pathogenic
- Exposure to commercial strains associated with health foods and baking may allow for colonization/infection

J. Clin. Microbiol. 36: 557-562; 1998



1-4 ascospores per ascus

Stain Gram-negative (vegetative cells stain Gram-positive)

Stain with Kinyoun stain (vegetative cells visualized with counterstain)

Best demonstrated on specialized medium

Trichosporon spp.

- *T. beigelii* formerly considered main pathogen of genus
- Major taxonomic revision in 1992
- 19 taxa recognized; nearly all systemic infection caused by six species

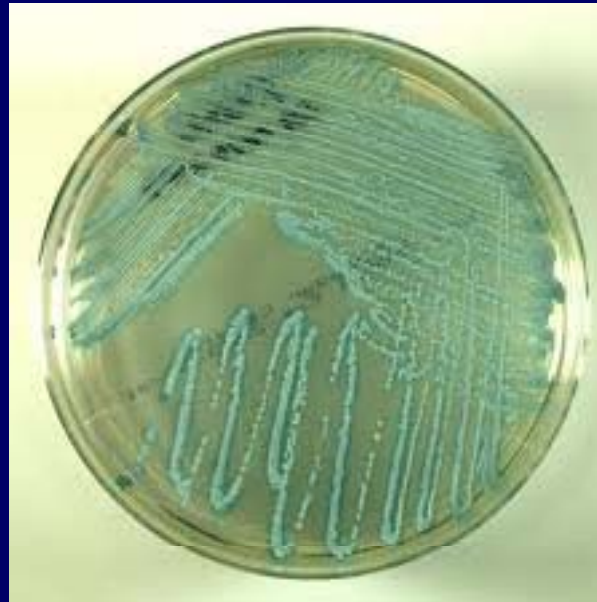
<i>T. asahii</i>	<i>T. asteroides</i>	<i>T. mucoides</i>
<i>T. cutaneum</i>	<i>T. inkin</i>	<i>T. ovoides</i>

- Neutropenic patients; AIDS; extensive burns; heart valve surgery; catheterized patients

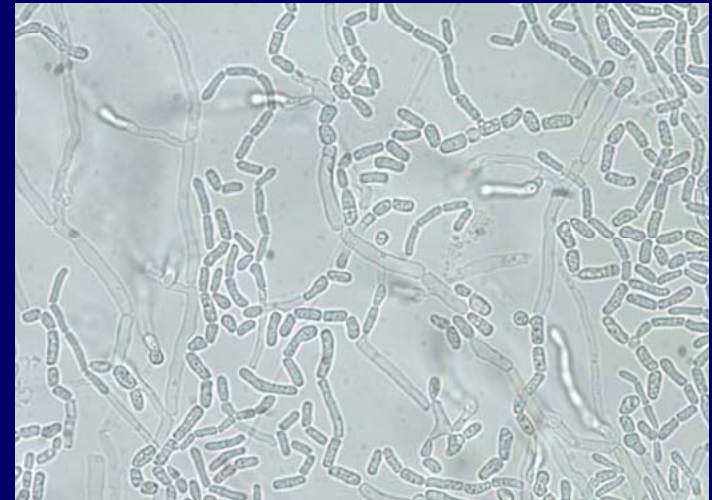
Trichosporon spp.



T. asahii
nutritive medium



T. asahii
chromogenic medium
“Patriot Blue”



T. asahii
cell morphology

Urease-positive

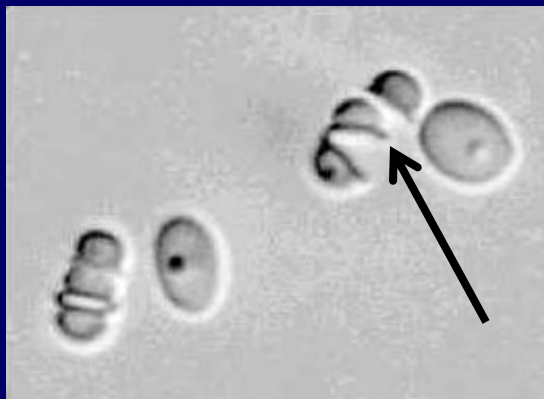
Blastoschizomyces capitatus

- Obsolete taxa *Trichosporon capitatum* and *Blastoschizomyces pseudotrichosporon*
- Emerging cause of invasive fungal disease in leukemic patients; mortality rate from invasive disease high in neutropenic patients
- Difficult to delineate from *Trichosporon*

Urease-negative
Non-fermentative

Growth at 45° C
Growth on cycloheximide

“Current” Designation	“Former” Designation
<i>Clavispora lusitaniae</i> teleomorph	<i>Candida lusitaniae</i> anamorph
<i>Yarrowia lipolytica</i> teleomorph	<i>Candida lipolytica</i> anamorph
<i>Issatchenkia orientalis</i> teleomorph	<i>Candida krusei</i> anamorph
<i>Candida kefyr</i>	<i>Candida pseudotropicalis</i>
<i>Debaryomyces hansenii</i> teleomorph	<i>Candida famata</i> anamorph
<i>Pichia guilliermondii</i> teleomorph	<i>Candida guilliermondii</i> anamorph
<i>Hansenula anomala</i> (now obsolete)	<i>Candida pelliculosa</i>
<i>Pichia anomala</i> teleomorph	<i>Hansenula anomala</i> (now obsolete)
<i>Wickerhamomyces anomalus</i>	<i>Pichia anomala</i>



Wickerhamomyces species

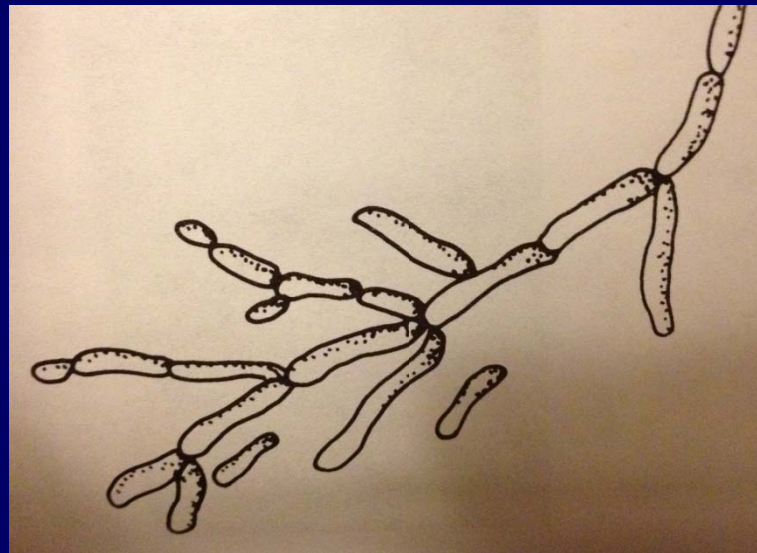
1-4 ascospores per ascus

Brim that turns downward
around each ascospore (helmet)



Candida lipolytica

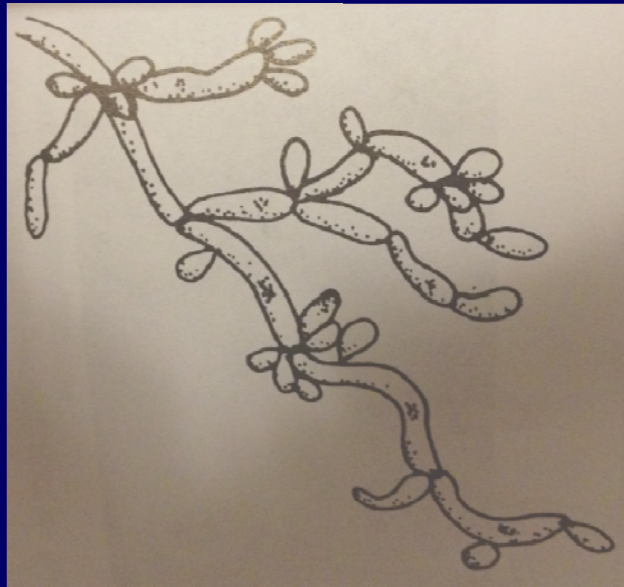
- Emerging opportunistic pathogen
- Pseudohyphae and true hyphae bearing elongate blastoconidia form stark branching appearance; urease-positive



D. H. Larone, Medically Important Fungi, fourth ed.

Candida lusitanae

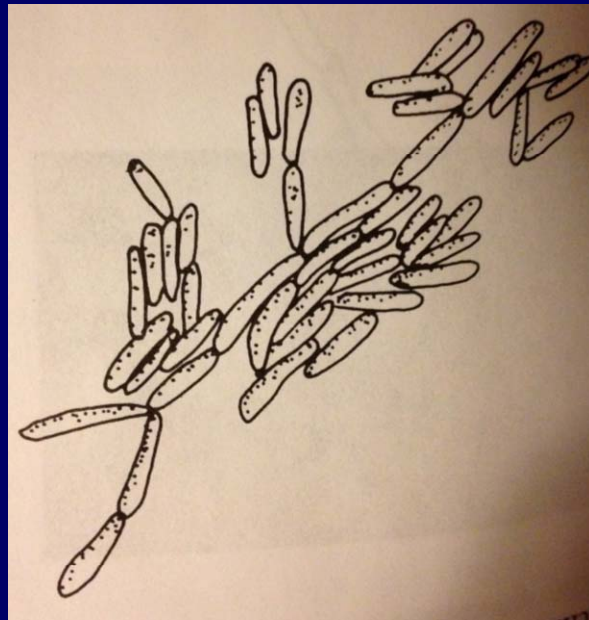
- Emerging opportunist (malignancy); highly-resistant to amphotericin B
- Pseudohyphae slender, branched, curved; short chains of elongate blastoconidia



D. H. Larone, Medically Important Fungi, fourth ed.

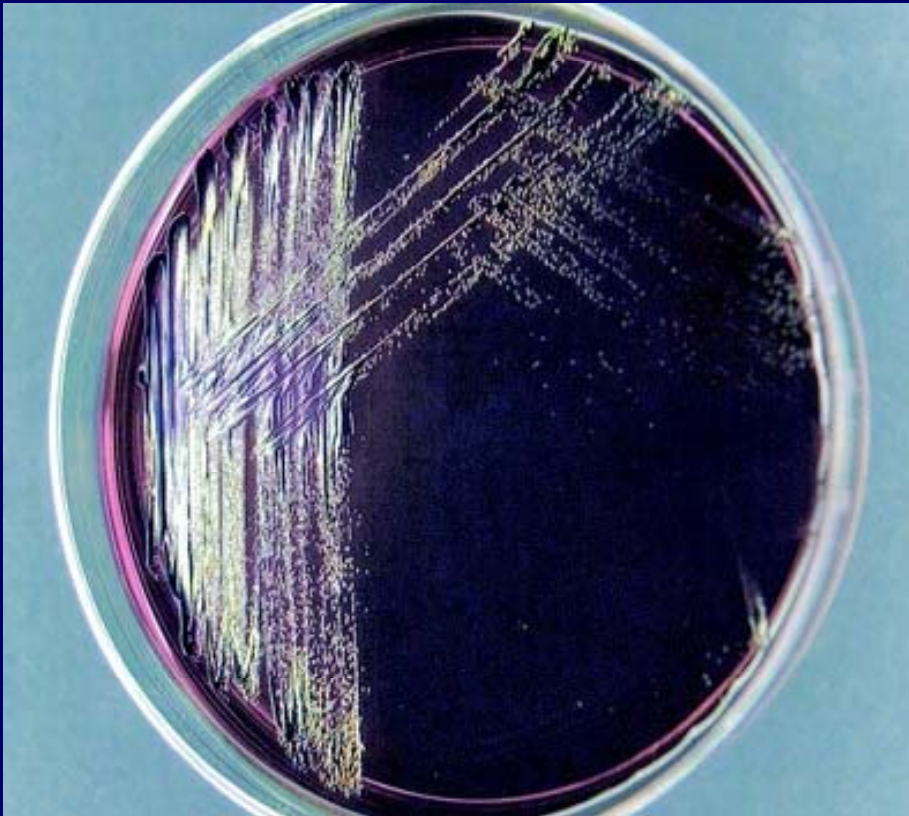
Candida kefyr

- Rare etiology of systemic disease, cystitis
- Elongate blastoconidia line up in parallel; “logs in stream”



D. H. Larone, Medically Important Fungi, fourth ed.

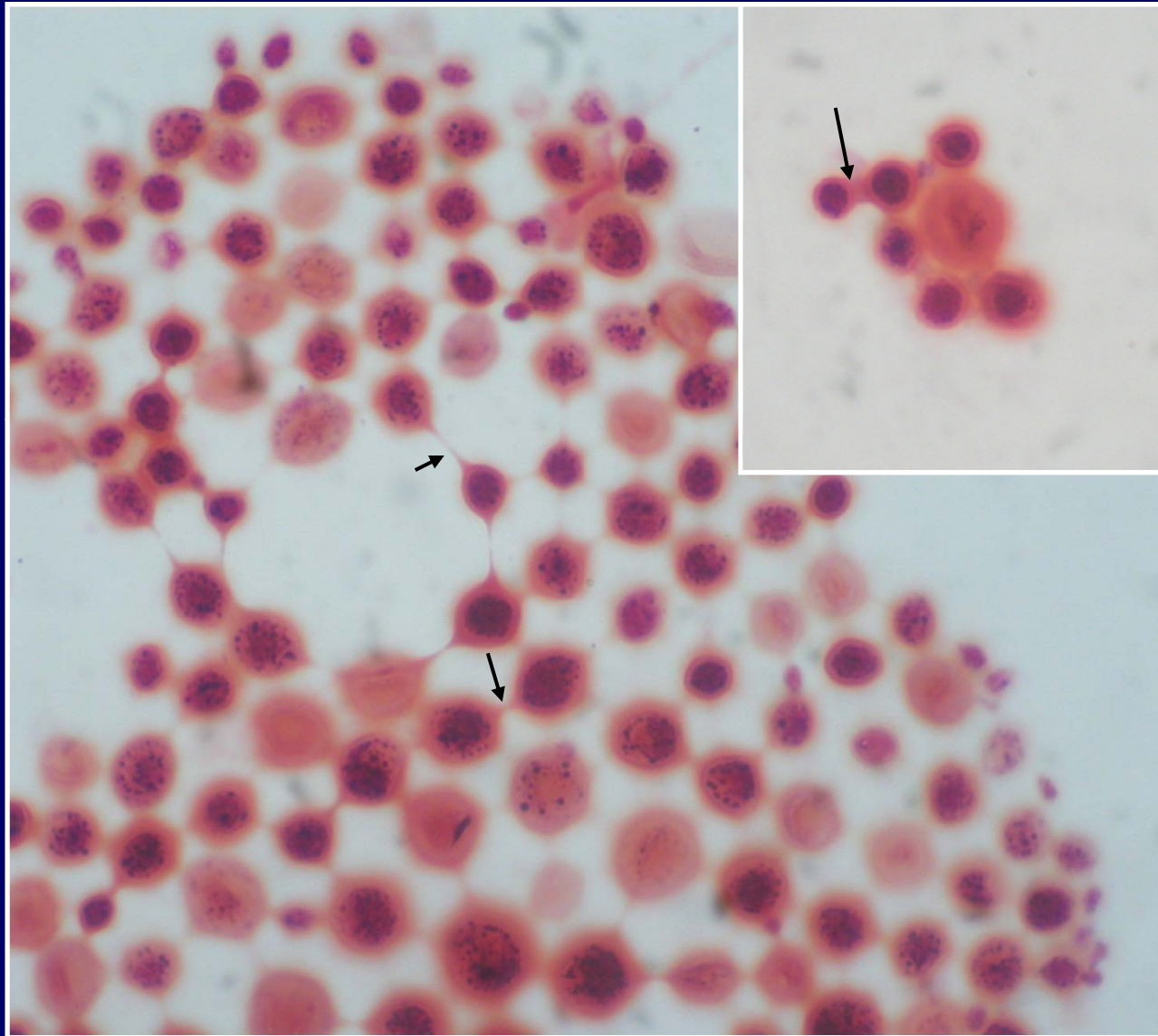
Candida kefyr



Presence of metallic green sheen on Levine eosin methylene blue (EMB) agar demonstrated 100% positive predictive value for *C. kefyr*

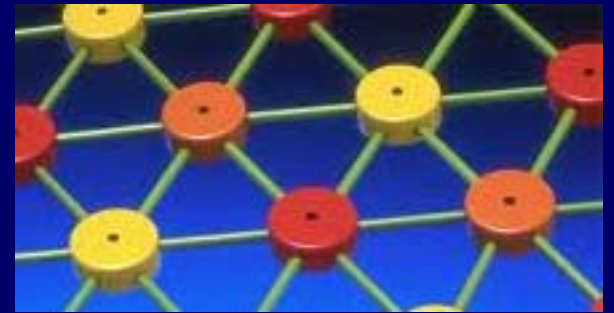
38-year-old Male with GI & Headache

- 3-month history of GI distress, headache; fever, chills, poor appetite, 20-pound weight loss over three months
- Past contact with commercial sex worker
- CT imaging of abdomen consistent with fecal impaction; MRI had increased signal intensity in periventricular and white matter
- CSF protein 84 mg/dL (12-60) glucose 4 (40-70)
22 leukocytes (0-5); 94% lymphocytes



38-year-old Male with GI & Headache

- Initially reported as “Abundant yeast”
- Tinkertoy[®] “appreciation”
amended report
- Definitive identification as
Cryptococcus neoformans
- Cryptococcal antigen titer (CSF) 1024
- Patient also had CD4 count 29/mm³, HIV
load $\sim 10^5$ copies, thrush, Kaposi sarcoma



Cryptococcus neoformans

- HIV signal disease; cryptococcosis is first AIDS-defining illness in 45% of AIDS patients
- CNS disease, skin, bone, lung, other organs
- CSF cryptococcal antigen sensitivity equals or exceeds that of culture

S. Afr. Med. J. 71: 510-512; 1987

J. Clin. Microbiol. 32: 1680-1684; 1994

- 85.2% sensitivity of Gram stain in culture-positive cases of cryptococcal meningitis

J. Clin. Microbiol. 36: 1617-1620; 1998

Cryptococcus spp.

- *C. neoformans/gattii* complex reclassification (e.g., *C. neoformans* var. *neoformans*)
- Six species may be encountered clinically

<i>C. neoformans</i>	<i>C. albidus</i>	<i>C. terreus</i>
<i>C. uniguttulatus</i>	<i>C. luteolus</i>	<i>C. laurentii</i>
- Only *C. neoformans/gattii* complex produces phenol oxidase; “birdseed” agar, also a rapid test utilizing caffeic acid disc
- Urease-positive; nitrate can help differentiate



NORTH AMERICA CANDIDEMIA

Species	Percentage Distribution		
	2008-2009	1997	1952-1992 [†]
<i>C. albicans</i>	43.4	55.3	54.0
<i>C. glabrata</i>	23.5	17.0	8.0
<i>C. parapsilosis</i>	17.1	12.1	7.0
<i>C. tropicalis</i>	10.5	7.2	25.0
<i>C. krusei</i>	1.6	2.3	4.0

[†] Estimate

J. Clin. Microbiol. **36**: 1886-1889; 1998

J. Clin. Microbiol. **49**: 396-399; 2011

CANDIDEMIA BY AGE

Species	Percentage Distribution	
	0-19 year olds	80-99 year olds
<i>C. albicans</i>	50.0	46.7
<i>C. glabrata</i>	2.0	28.6
<i>C. parapsilosis</i>	28.5	17.1
<i>C. tropicalis</i>	12.9	3.8
<i>C. krusei</i>	0.8	2.9

NOSOCOMIAL CANDIDEMIA

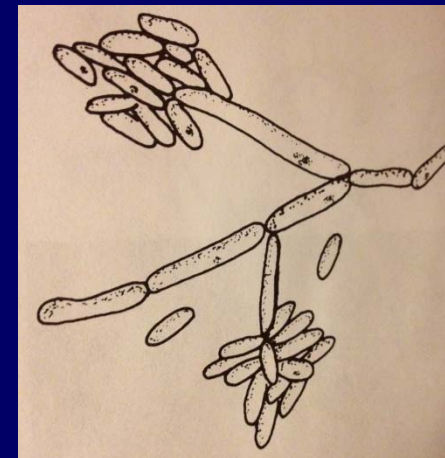
Species	Percentage Distribution	
	ICU	Non-ICU
<i>C. albicans</i>	50.4	47.4
<i>C. glabrata</i>	17.5	18.1
<i>C. parapsilosis</i>	15.1	18.9
<i>C. tropicalis</i>	10.5	9.6
<i>C. krusei</i>	2.1	2.1

EPIDEMIOLOGY OF CANDIDEMIA

Species	Percentage Distribution	
	Nosocomial Onset	Community Onset
<i>C. albicans</i>	47	51
<i>C. glabrata</i>	18	18
<i>C. parapsilosis</i>	18	15
<i>C. tropicalis</i>	11	11
<i>C. krusei</i>	3	1

Candida krusei

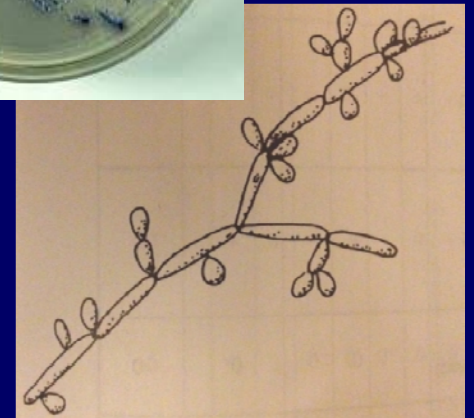
- Emerging opportunist; constitutively resistant to fluconazole
- Distinctive morphology on chromogenic medium
- Urease-positive (some)
- Elongate blastoconidia, tree-like appearance



D. H. Larone, Medically Important Fungi, fourth ed.

Candida tropicalis

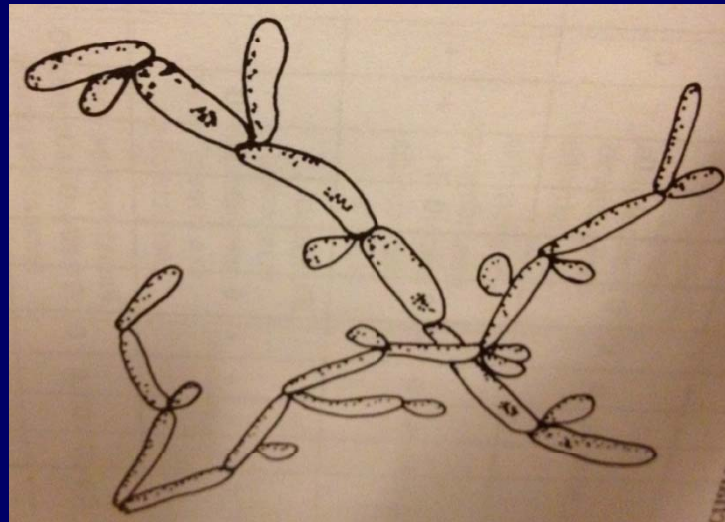
- In patients with lymphoreticular malignancy or leukemia, more virulent than *C. albicans*
- Distinctive morphology on chromogenic medium
- Blastoconidia singly or in small groups along long pseudohyphae



D. H. Larone, Medically Important Fungi, fourth ed.

Candida parapsilosis

- Infections in particularly susceptible hosts; candidal endocarditis
- Blastoconidia singly or in small clusters; crooked/curved short pseudohyphae



D. H. Larone, Medically Important Fungi, fourth ed.

Candida glabrata

- Potential induction of fluconazole resistance upon suboptimal treatment
- Endocarditis, meningitis, multifocal disease
- 20% of *Candida* urinary tract infections
- When compared to CFU on blood agar, *C. glabrata* CFU on eosin methylene blue agar are larger

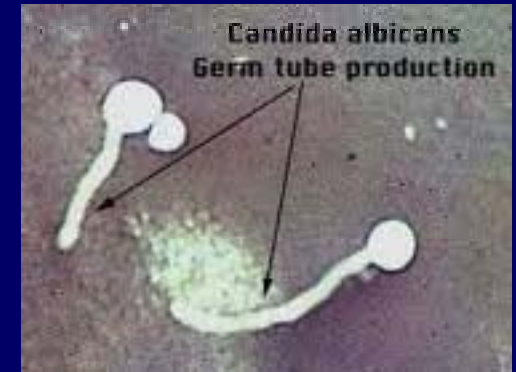
Candida glabrata

- Small blastoconidia; may bud at 11:00 and 1:00
- “Distinctive” morphology on chromogenic medium
- Rapid trehalose testing gives presumptive ID within 3 hours when correlated with cell morphology; watch out for blood agar

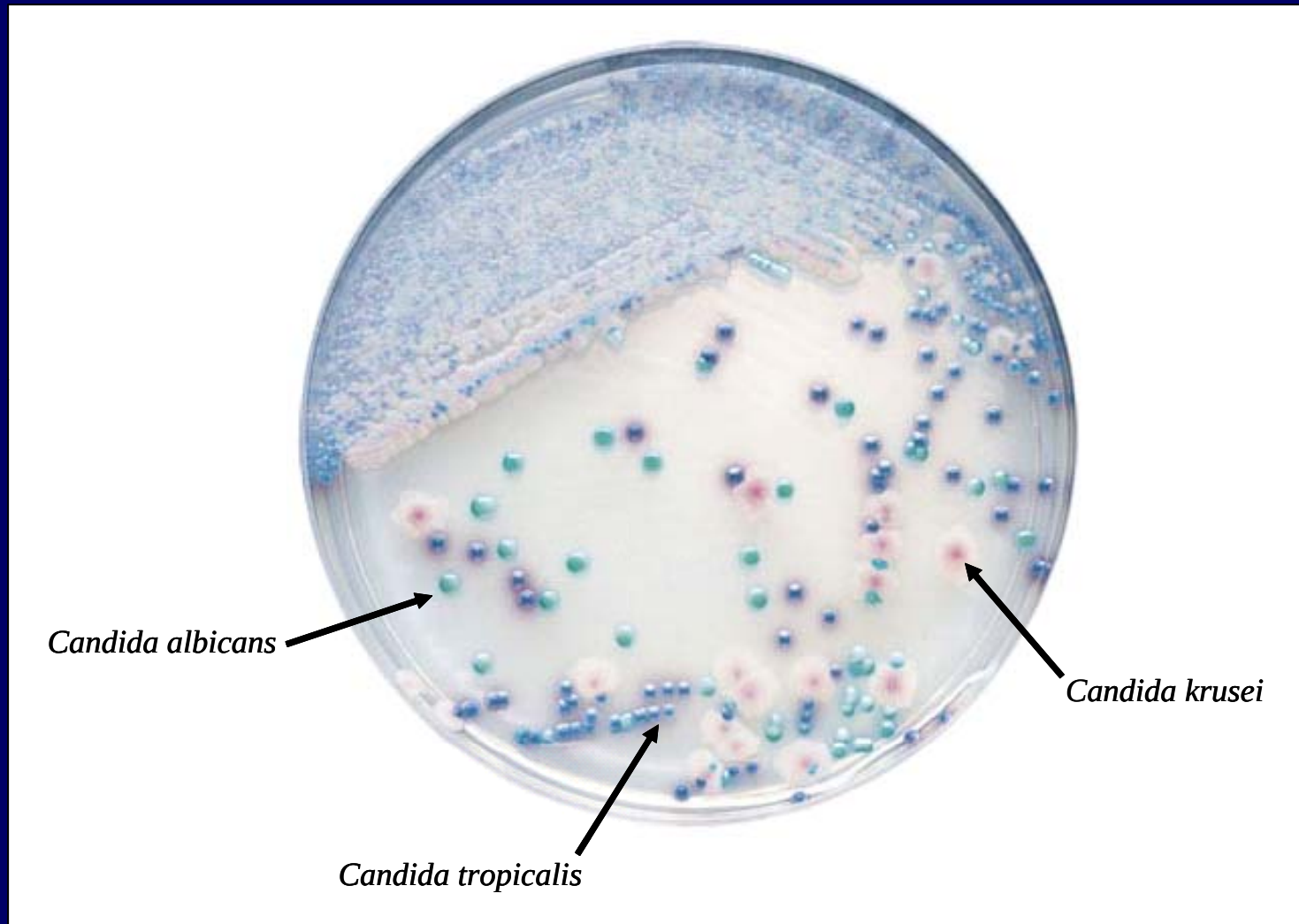


Candida albicans

- Most common species isolated from all forms of candidiasis
- Make sure that germ tube contiguous (*C. tropicalis*); considered presumptive
- Distinctive morphology on chromogenic medium
- Terminal chlamydoconidia, especially at 25° C



CHROMOGENIC MEDIUM



J. Clin. Microbiol. 32: 1923-1929; 1994

J. Clin. Microbiol. 34: 56-61; 1996

Candida dubliniensis

- Most frequently isolated from oropharynx of HIV-positive patients (pseudomembranous oral candidiasis)
- Infrequently recovered from blood, urine, vaginal specimens (immunocompromised)
- *Candida albicans* mimicry
germ tube chlamydoconidia
- Commercial germ tube reagent reduces frequency of GT-positive *C. dubliniensis*

TO ID OR NOT TO ID??

JOURNAL OF CLINICAL MICROBIOLOGY, Dec. 2011, p. 4415
0095-1137/11/\$12.00 doi:10.1128/JCM.05923-11
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Vol. 49,

Do Hospital Microbiology Laboratories Still Need To Distinguish *Candida albicans* from *Candida dubliniensis*?[▽]

- *C. dubliniensis* first described in 1995, midst AIDS epidemic and introduction of HAART
- As a result, mucocutaneous candidiasis commonly seen; many of first strains resistant to fluconazole (or inducible)

TO ID OR NOT TO ID??

- Original *C. dubliniensis* discoverers note that yeast is fairly susceptible to fluconazole

Biochem. Soc. Trans. **33**: 1210-1214; 2005

- Data corroborated by:

CDC	4.8% resistance in 42 isolates
Denmark	3.1% resistance in 65 isolates
Global surveillance	3.9% resistance in 310 isolates

J. Clin. Microbiol. **49**: 4415; 2011

J. Clin. Microbiol. **49**: 325-334; 2011

J. Clin. Microbiol. **48**: 1366-1377; 2010

DEFINITIVE IDENTIFICATION

- Carbohydrate assimilation is mainstay; Wickerham and Burton method has given way to commercial kits (some automated)

Candida spp.

Cryptococcus spp.

Saccharomyces cerevisiae

Rhodotorula spp.

Trichosporon spp.

(former) *Pichia* spp.

Geotrichum spp.

Malassezia furfur

Sporobolomyces spp.

Prototheca wickerhamii

- PNA FISH from positive blood cultures (*C. albicans*, *C. glabrata*, *C. tropicalis*); does not replace subculture (polymicrobial)

MALDI-TOF

- Spectra of 247/267 clinical isolates correlated with API biochemical profiling; Big Five did very well (n = 220)

J. Clin. Microbiol. **48**: 2912-2917; 2009

- Prospective study of 61 yeast isolates yielded 96.8% correct ID to genus ($P = 0.03$ versus biochemical methods); 84.0% correct ID to species

J. Clin. Microbiol. **48**: 900-907; 2010

Antifungal Susceptibility Testing

CLSI DOCUMENTS OF INTEREST

- M27-A3 Reference Method for Broth Dilution Susceptibility Testing of Yeasts, 3rd ed. Approved Standard
- M44-A2 Method for Antifungal Disk Diffusion Susceptibility Testing of Yeasts, 2nd ed. Approved Guideline

BROTH MICRODILUTION

- Can test variety of yeasts, including *Candida* and *C. neoformans*, but not dimorphs
- Interpretive criteria only for *Candida* spp.

Agent	Minimum Inhibitory Concentration (μg/mL)				
	Susceptible	Susceptible (dose-dependent)	Intermediate	Resistant	Non-susceptible
Fluconazole	≤ 8	16-32		≥ 64	
Voriconazole	≤ 1	2		≥ 4	
Itraconazole	≤ 0.125	0.25-0.50		≥ 1	
5-fluorocytosine	≤ 4		8-16	≥ 32	
Anidulafungin	≤ 2				> 2
Caspofungin	≤ 2				> 2
Micafungin	≤ 2				> 2

BROTH MICRODILUTION

- RPMI 1640 broth (MOPS buffer, 0.2% dextrose)
- 24h *Candida* growth; 48h *C. neoformans*
Sabouraud dextrose, potato dextrose agar
- 0.5 McFarland; dilution to final inoculum
range of 0.5×10^3 to 2.5×10^3 CFU/mL
- Fluconazole, 5-fluorocytosine 0.12-64 $\mu\text{g/mL}$
Other antifungals 0.03-16 $\mu\text{g/mL}$

BROTH MICRODILUTION

- 35° C ambient air

24 hours for echinocandins

24-48 hours for amphotericin B

24-48 hours for fluconazole

48 hours for 5-fluorocytosine

48 hours for other azoles

70-74 hours for *C. neoformans* testing

- Amphotericin B: observe 100% inhibition
Other agents: observe 50% inhibition

DISK DIFFUSION

- Has lagged behind broth dilution
- *Candida* versus caspofungin posaconazole
fluconazole voriconazole

Agent	Zone Diameter (mm)			
	Susceptible	Susceptible (dose-dependent)	Resistant	Non- susceptible
Caspofungin	≥ 11			≤ 10
Fluconazole	≥ 19	15-18	≤ 14	
Voriconazole	≥ 17	14-16	≤ 13	

DISK DIFFUSION

- Mueller-Hinton agar with 2% dextrose (0.5 µg methylene blue/mL)
- 24-hour *Candida* spp. growth on Sabauroud Dextrose agar
- 0.5 McFarland standard for inoculum of 1×10^6 to 5×10^6 CFU/mL
- Caspofungin 5 µg Posaconazole 5 µg
Fluconazole 25 µg Voriconazole 1 µg

DISK DIFFUSION

- 35° C ambient air; 20-24 hours
- Observe for prominent reduction in growth
 - Ignore pinpoint microcolonies at zone edge
 - Ignore large colonies within inhibition zone

Etest

- Fluconazole, itraconazole, 5-fluorocytosine strips FDA-approved for clinical use
- Etest MIC data tended to be higher than broth microdilution for fluconazole testing of 1586 *Candida* spp., but overall agreement 96.4%
- Etest MIC data tended to be higher than broth microdilution for voriconazole testing of 1586 *Candida* spp., but overall agreement 98.1%

FLUCONAZOLE RESISTANCE

Species	Percentage Resistant	
	1997	2008-2009
<i>C. albicans</i>	0.6	0.1
<i>C. glabrata</i>	8.7	5.6
<i>C. parapsilosis</i>	0.0	5.0
<i>C. tropicalis</i>	0.0	3.2
<i>C. krusei</i>	100.0	100.0

J. Clin. Microbiol. **36**: 1886-1889; 1998

J. Clin. Microbiol. **49**: 396-399; 2011

FLUCONAZOLE RESISTANCE

Species	Percentage Resistant	
	Nosocomial Onset	Community Onset
<i>C. albicans</i>	0.0	0.0
<i>C. glabrata</i>	7.7	3.3
<i>C. parapsilosis</i>	5.8	6.6
<i>C. tropicalis</i>	3.3	0.0
<i>C. krusei</i>	100.0	100.0

FLUCONAZOLE RESISTANCE

Species	Percentage Resistant	
	ICU	Non-ICU
<i>C. albicans</i>	0.0	0.0
<i>C. glabrata</i>	5.9	6.3
<i>C. parapsilosis</i>	6.8	4.3
<i>C. tropicalis</i>	4.9	2.2
<i>C. krusei</i>	100.0	100.0

THE END

- Lots of name changes
- Several aids in presumptive identification of yeast; baseline observations can also lend validity/correlation to an automated result
- Antifungal susceptibility testing for yeast continues to be a work in progress

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