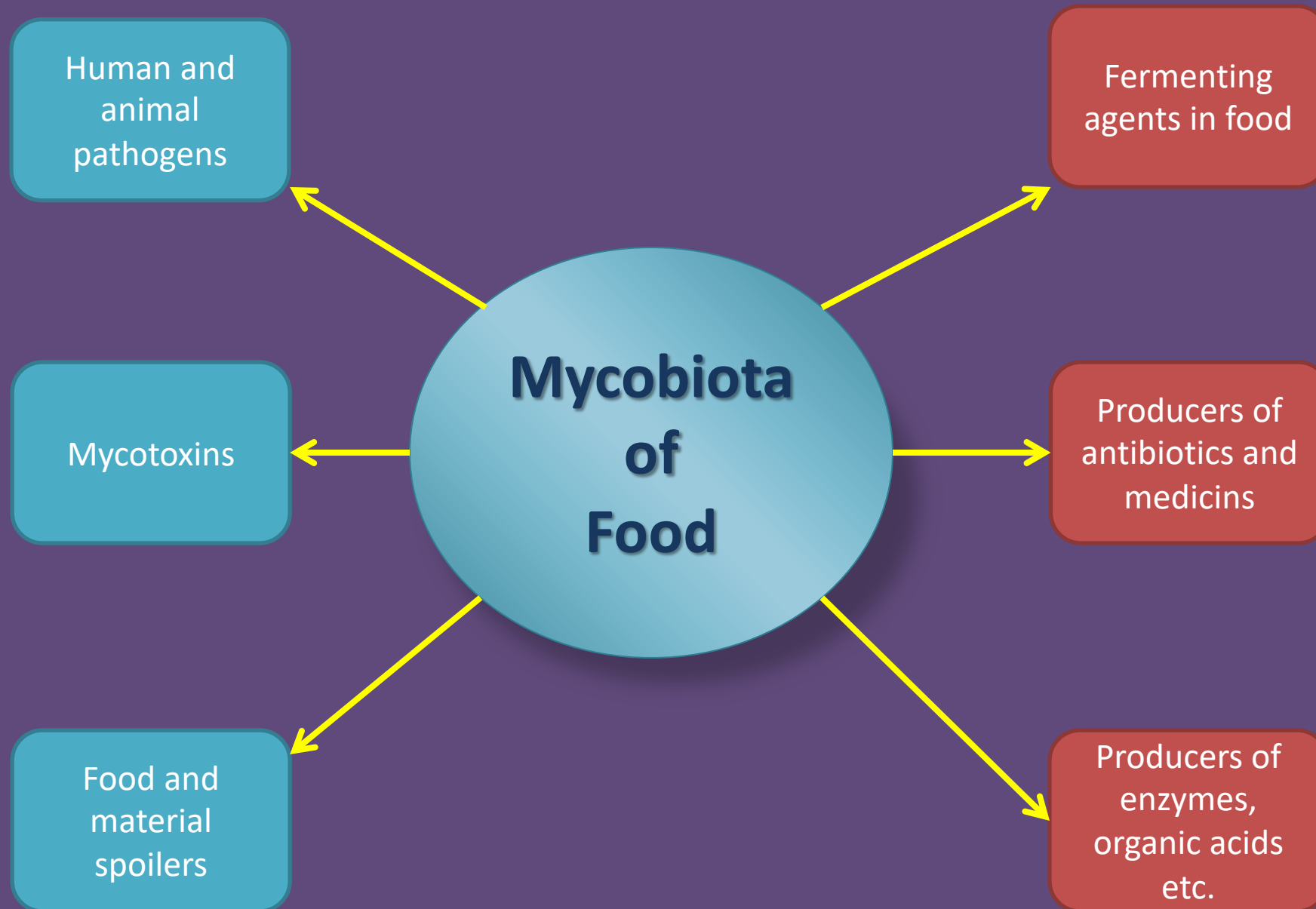


# NEW TAXONOMIES OF FOOD BORNE FUNGI

*Robert Samson*  
*Westerdijk Fungal Biodiversity Institute*  
*Utrecht, The Netherlands*



**ECCO Turin 12-24 June 2019**  
**Session 5. Microbes in quality and safety of food**







- ▣ Food is a specific substrate for specific fungi
- ▣ About 120-150 species
- ▣ Taxonomy and the biodiversity used to be based on phenotypic characters
- ▣ The introduction of the polyphasic taxonomic concept has changed the species delimitation
- ▣ There is a trend to use the phylogenetic species concept



# New taxonomic schemes

- ▣ The use of molecular data have resulted in a better understanding of the genera
- ▣ Polyphasic taxonomy which also includes chemical data is useful for food mycology because the extrolite profiles are often specific for the species
- ▣ The single nomenclature has a great impact for naming of the genera and species

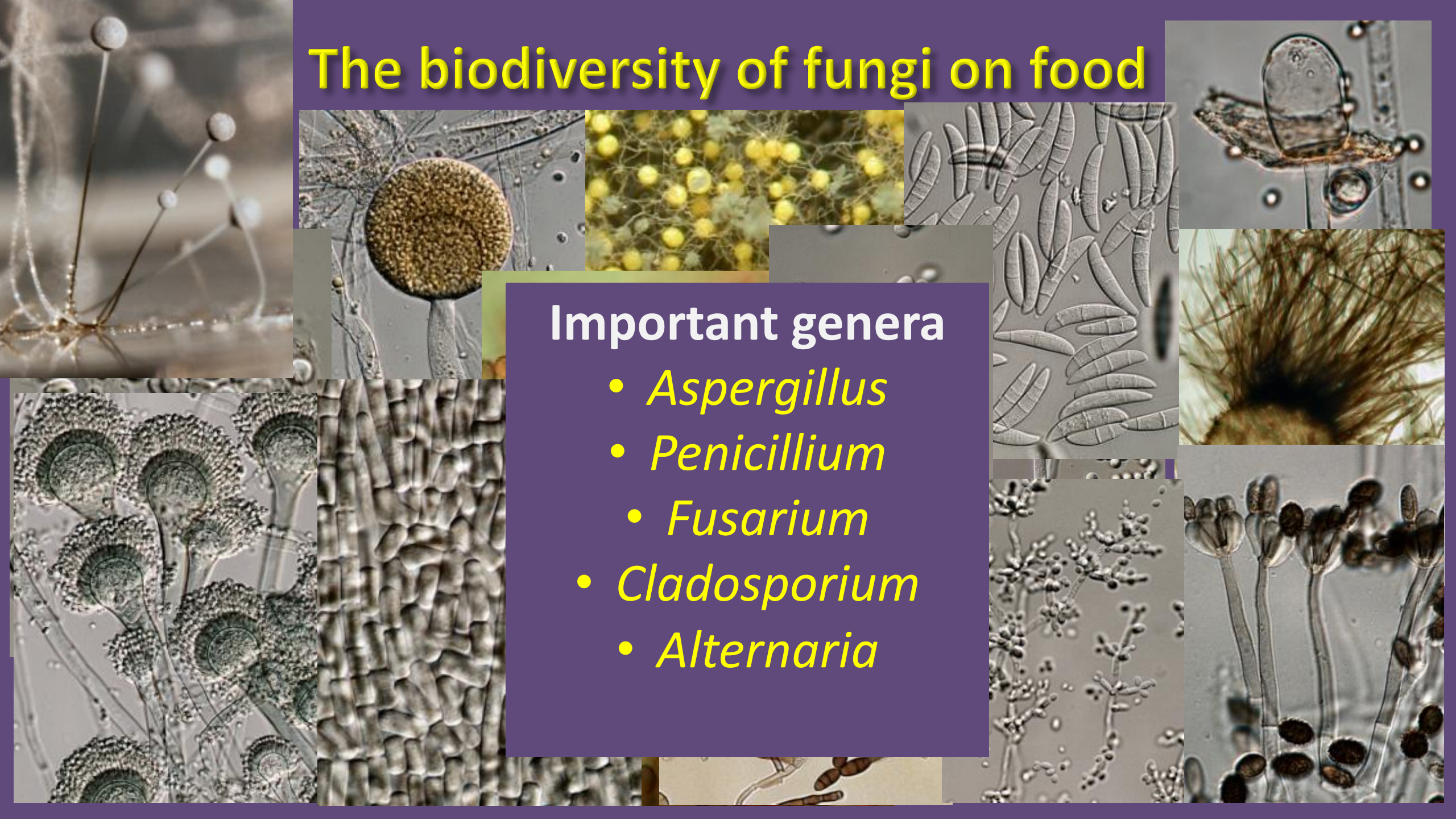




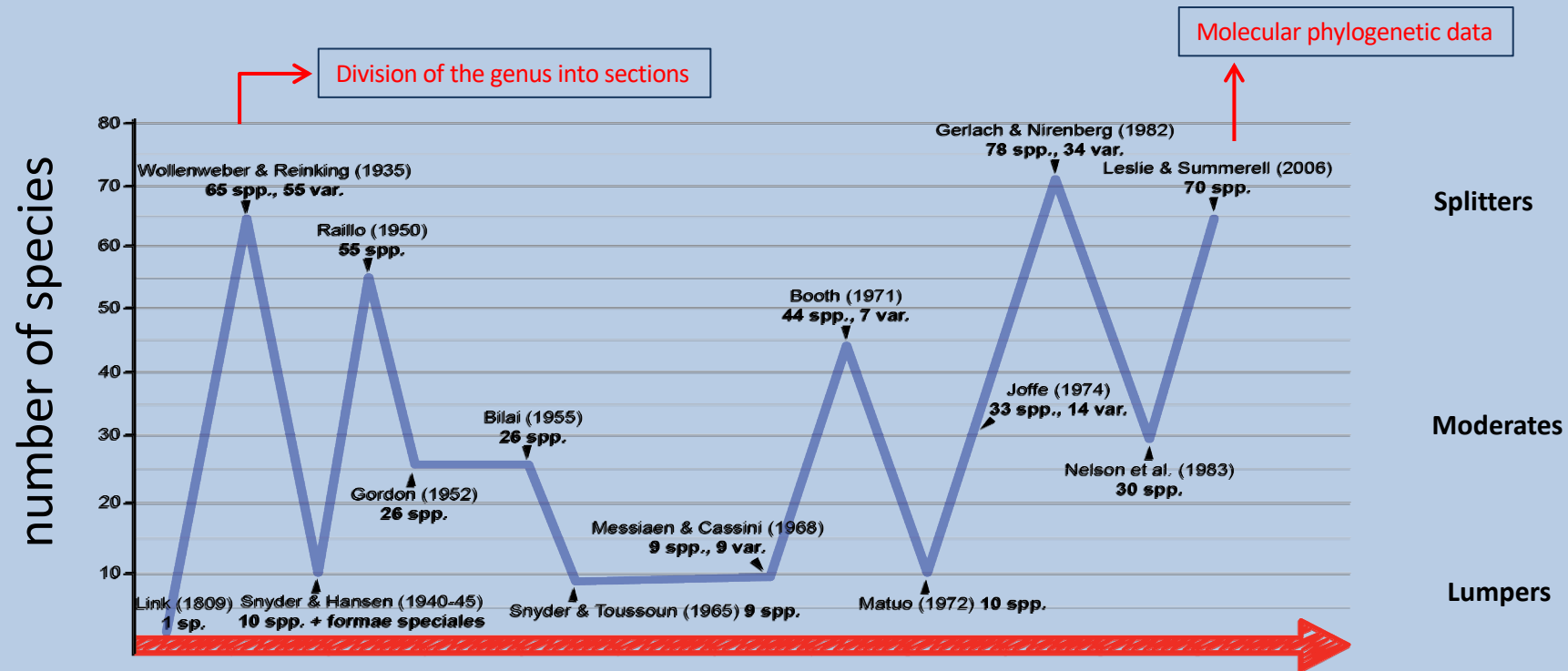
# The biodiversity of fungi on food

## Important genera

- *Aspergillus*
- *Penicillium*
- *Fusarium*
- *Cladosporium*
- *Alternaria*



# Fusarium taxonomic and nomenclature problems



Phylogenetic species concept → Number of species > 800



# Aspergillus, Penicillium and Talaromyces

- ▣ These are important genera have been studied for centuries
- ▣ Phenotypical characters were used
- ▣ The pioneers were Charles Thom and Kenneth Raper and most of their taxonomy is still valid
- ▣ Since two decades the polyphasic taxonomy started combining phenotypical, physiological, chemical and genotypical characters

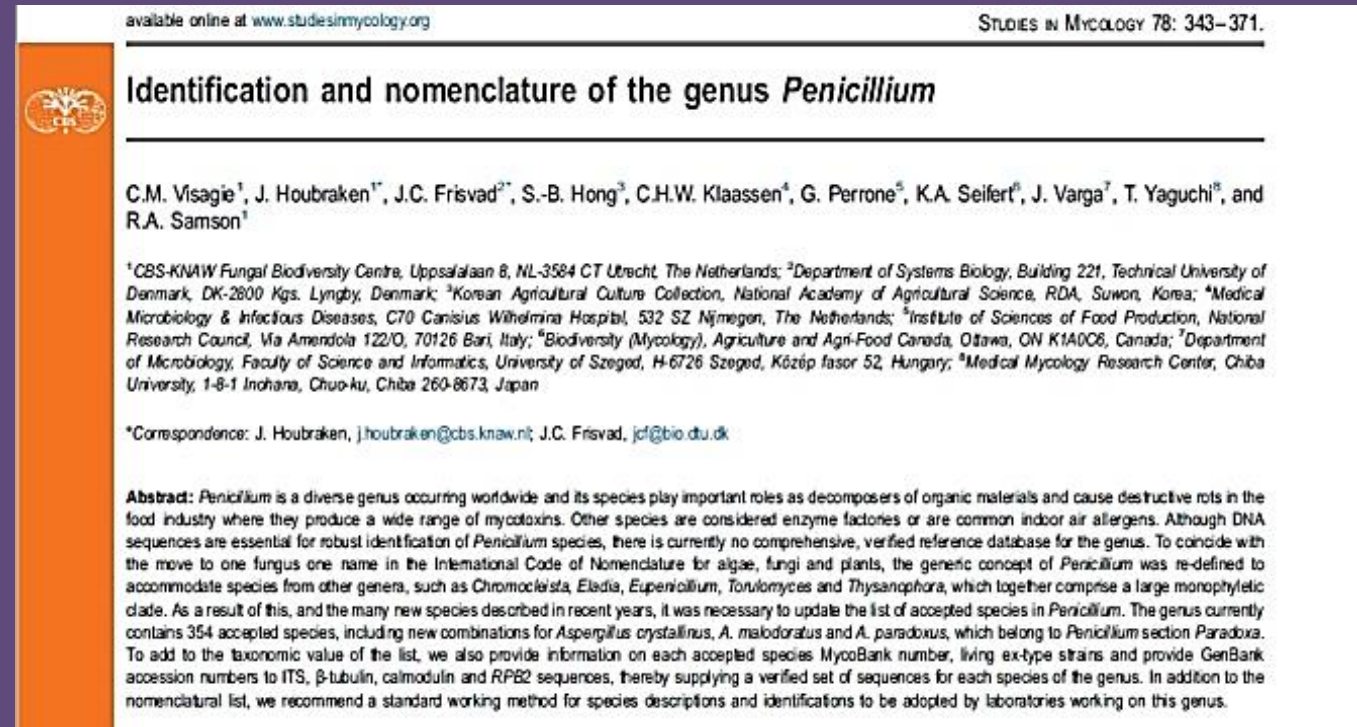
# NEW TAXONOMIES OF PENICILLIUM

- ▣ Current species concept in *Penicillium* show that each species has its specific metabolites e.g. mycotoxins
- ▣ More than 430 are now described and accepted
- ▣ Correct species identification will provide information on the mycotoxin production
- ▣ Molecular typing is not always supported by phenotypic differences



# New taxonomies of *Penicillium*

- Visagie et al. (2014) with good overview
- Phylogenetic analysis shows that *Penicillium* is monophyletic
- Phenotypic identification is possible for the majority of species
- For identification beta tubulin can be used as a second barcode
- Many new species are or will be described



# NEW TAXONOMIES OF ASPERGILLUS

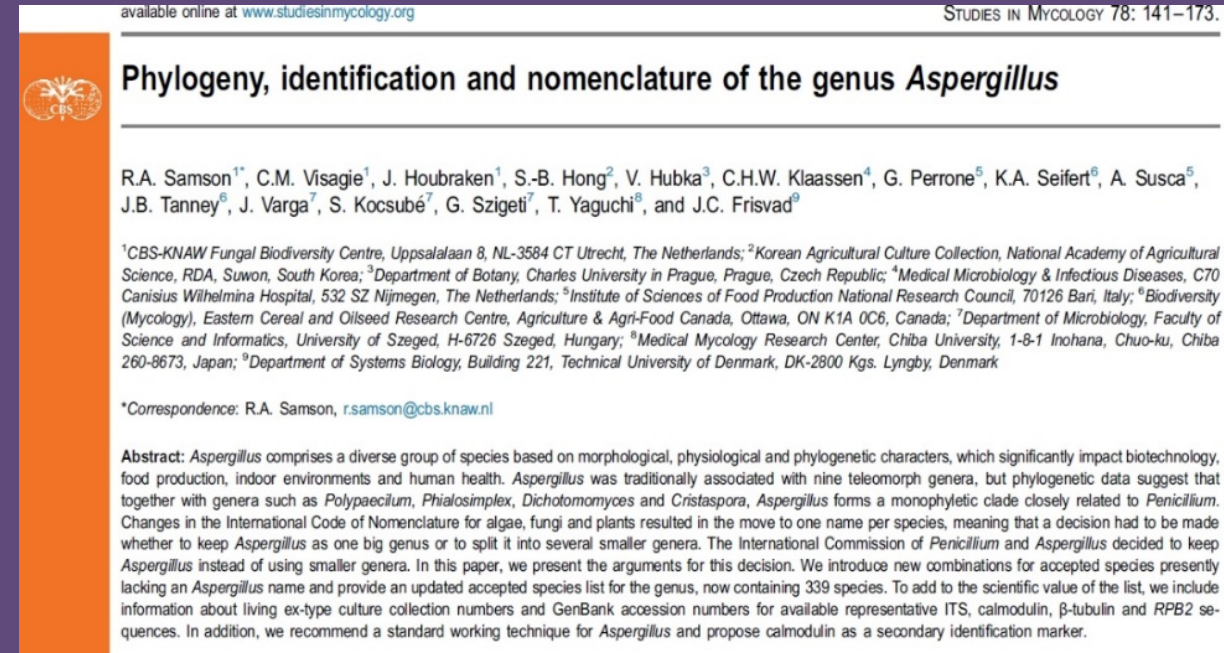


- ▣ Current species concepts in *Aspergillus* show that each species has its specific metabolites e.g. mycotoxins
- ▣ More than 420 are now described and accepted
- ▣ Correct species identification will provide information on the mycotoxin production
- ▣ Molecular typing is not always supported by phenotypic differences



# Benchmarks in *Aspergillus* taxonomy

- List of all known and accepted species of *Aspergillus*
- Recommendations for identification including first and second barcode
- *Aspergillus* is monophyletic
- The name *Aspergillus* is maintained for all subgenera and sections
- The extrolites including mycotoxins are specific for each species and well-documented





## Taxonomy of *Aspergillus* section *Flavi* and their production of aflatoxins, ochratoxins and other mycotoxins

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**Abstract:** Aflatoxins and ochratoxins are among the most important mycotoxins of all and producers of both types of mycotoxins are present in *Aspergillus* section *Flavi*, albeit never in the same species. Some of the most efficient producers of aflatoxins and ochratoxins have not been described yet. Using a polyphasic approach combining phenotype, physiology, sequence and extrolite data, we describe here eight new species in section *Flavi*. Phylogenetically, section *Flavi* is split in eight clades and the section currently contains 33 species. Two species only produce aflatoxin B<sub>1</sub> and B<sub>2</sub> (*A. pseudotamarii* and *A. togoensis*), and 14 species are able to produce aflatoxin B<sub>1</sub>, B<sub>2</sub>, G<sub>1</sub> and G<sub>2</sub>: three newly described species *A. aflatoxiformans*, *A. austwickii* and *A. cerealis* in addition to *A. arachidicola*, *A. minisclerotigenes*, *A. mottae*, *A. luteovirens* (formerly *A. bombycis*), *A. nomius*, *A. novoparasiticus*, *A. parasiticus*, *A. pseudocaelatus*, *A. pseudonomius*, *A. sergii* and *A. transmontanensis*. It is generally accepted that *A. flavus* is unable to produce type G aflatoxins, but here we report on Korean strains that also produce aflatoxin G<sub>1</sub> and G<sub>2</sub>. One strain of *A. bertholletius* can produce the immediate aflatoxin precursor 3-O-methylsterigmatocystin, and one strain of *Aspergillus sojae* and two strains of *Aspergillus alliaceus* produced versicorins. Strains of the domesticated forms of *A. flavus* and *A. parasiticus*, *A. oryzae* and *A. sojae*, respectively, lost their ability to produce aflatoxins, and from the remaining phylogenetically closely related species (belonging to the *A. flavus*-, *A. tamarii*-, *A. bertholletius*- and *A. nomius*-clades), only *A. caelatus*, *A. subflavus* and *A. tamarii* are unable to produce aflatoxins. With exception of *A. togoensis* in the *A. coremiiformis*-clade, all species in the phylogenetically more distant clades (*A. alliaceus*-, *A. coremiiformis*-, *A. leporis*- and *A. avenaceus*-clade) are unable to produce aflatoxins. Three out of the four species in the *A. alliaceus*-clade can produce the mycotoxin ochratoxin A: *A. alliaceus* s. str. and two new species described here as *A. neoalliaceus* and *A. vandermerwei*. Eight species produced the mycotoxin tenuazonic acid: *A. bertholletius*, *A. caelatus*, *A. luteovirens*, *A. nomius*, *A. pseudocaelatus*, *A. pseudonomius*, *A. pseudotamarii* and *A. tamarii* while the related mycotoxin cyclopiazonic acid was produced by 13 species: *A. aflatoxiformans*, *A. austwickii*, *A. bertholletius*, *A. cerealis*, *A. flavus*, *A. minisclerotigenes*, *A. mottae*, *A. oryzae*, *A. pipericola*, *A. pseudocaelatus*, *A. pseudotamarii*, *A. sergii*, *A. sojae* and *A. subflavus*.

### Species

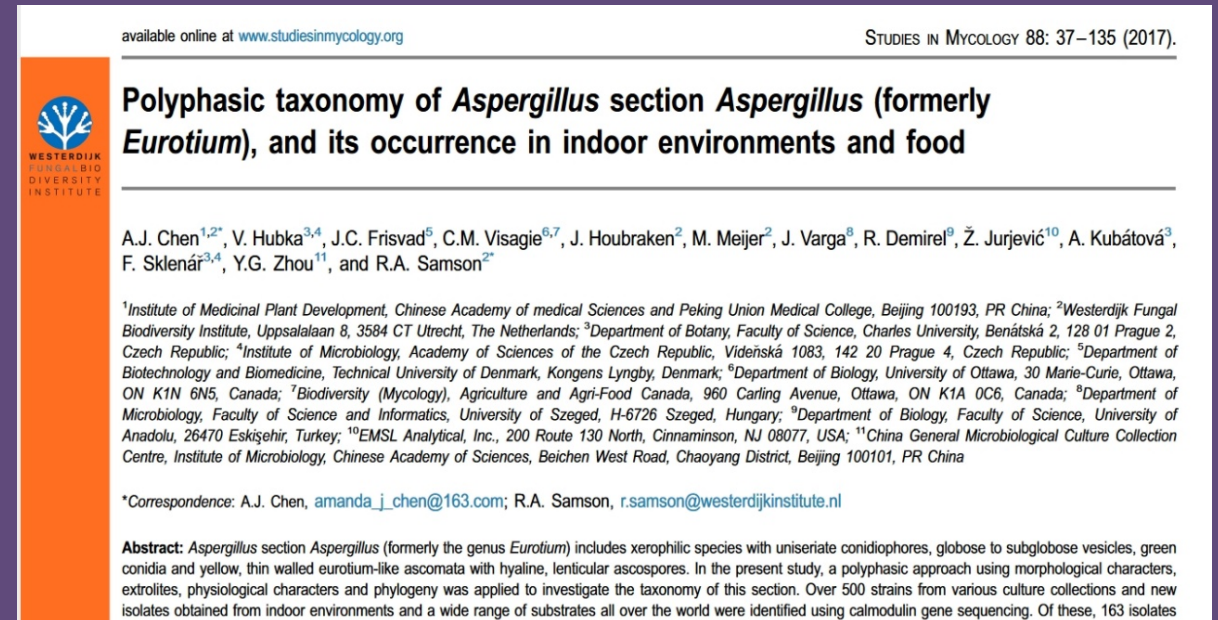
	Aflatoxin B <sub>1&amp;2</sub>	Aflatoxin G <sub>1&amp;2</sub>	Aflatem <sup>1</sup>	Cyclopiazonic acid	3-nitropropionic acid <sup>2</sup>	Tenuazonic acid	Ochratoxin A
<i>Aspergillus aflatoxiformans</i>	+	+	+	+	-	-	-
<i>A. alliaceus</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
<i>A. arachidicola</i>	+	+	-	-	-	-	-
<i>A. aspearensis</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>A. austwickii</i>	+	+	+	+	-	-	-
<i>A. avenaceus</i>	-	-	-	-	+	-	-
<i>A. bertholletius</i>	<sup>3</sup>	-	-	+	-	+	-
<i>A. caelatus</i>	-	-	-	-	-	+	-
<i>A. cerealis</i>	+	+	+	+	-	-	-
<i>A. coremiiformis</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>A. flavus</i>	+	(+) <sup>4</sup>	+	+	+	-	-
<i>A. hancockii</i> <sup>5</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>A. lanosus</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>A. leporis</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>A. luteovirens</i>	+	+	-	-	-	+	-
<i>A. minisclerotigenes</i>	+	+	+	+	-	-	-
<i>A. mottae</i>	+	+	-	+	-	-	-
<i>A. neoalliaceus</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
<i>A. nomius</i>	+	+	-	-	-	+	-
<i>A. novoparasiticus</i>	<sup>6</sup>	<sup>6</sup>	-	-	-	-	-
<i>A. oryzae</i>	-	-	-	+	+	-	-
<i>A. parasiticus</i>	+	+	-	-	-	-	-
<i>A. pipericola</i>	+	+	+	+	-	-	-
<i>A. pseudocaelatus</i>	+	+	-	+	-	+	-
<i>A. pseudonomius</i>	+	+	-	-	-	+	-
<i>A. pseudotamarii</i>	+	-	-	+	-	+	-
<i>A. sergii</i>	+	+	+	+	-	-	-
<i>A. sojae</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>A. subflavus</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>A. tamarii</i>	-	-	-	+	+	+	-
<i>A. togoensis</i>	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>A. transmontanensis</i>	+	+	-	-	-	-	-
<i>A. vandermerwei</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	+



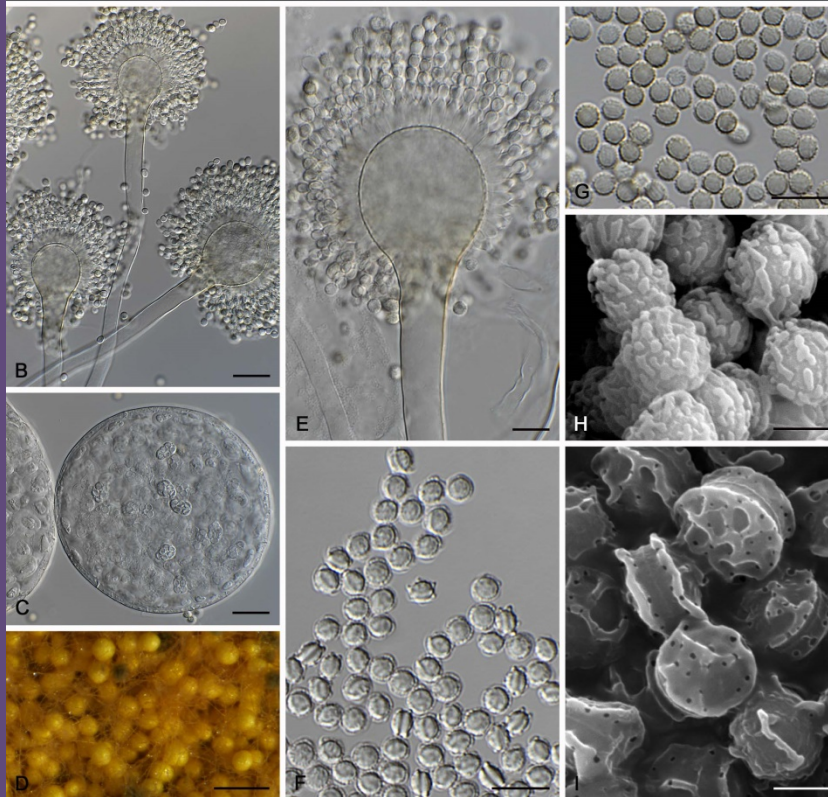
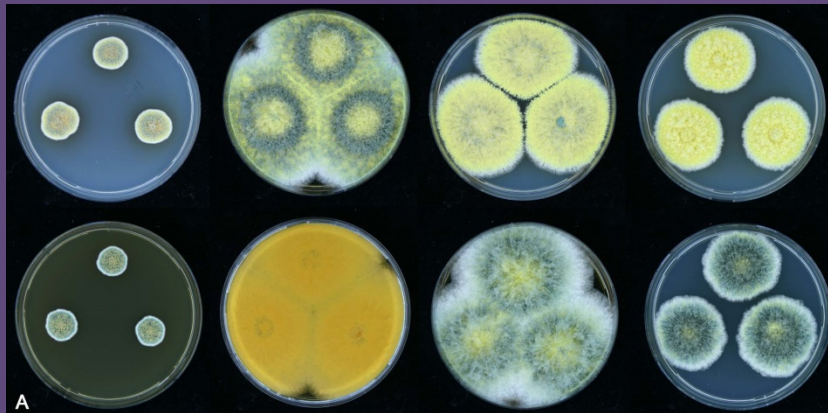


# New Aspergillus studies

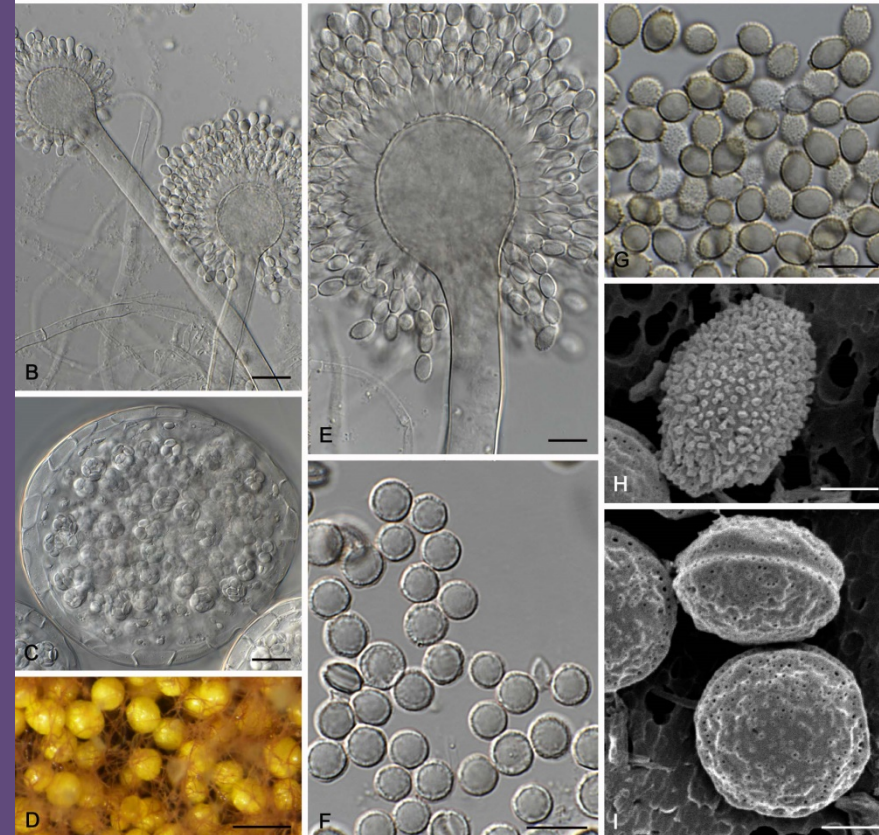
- ▣ Polyphasic taxonomy of *Aspergillus* section *Aspergillus* (formerly *Eurotium*), and its occurrence in indoor environments and food
- ▣ Amanda Chen et al. Studies in Mycology 88: 37–135 (2017)





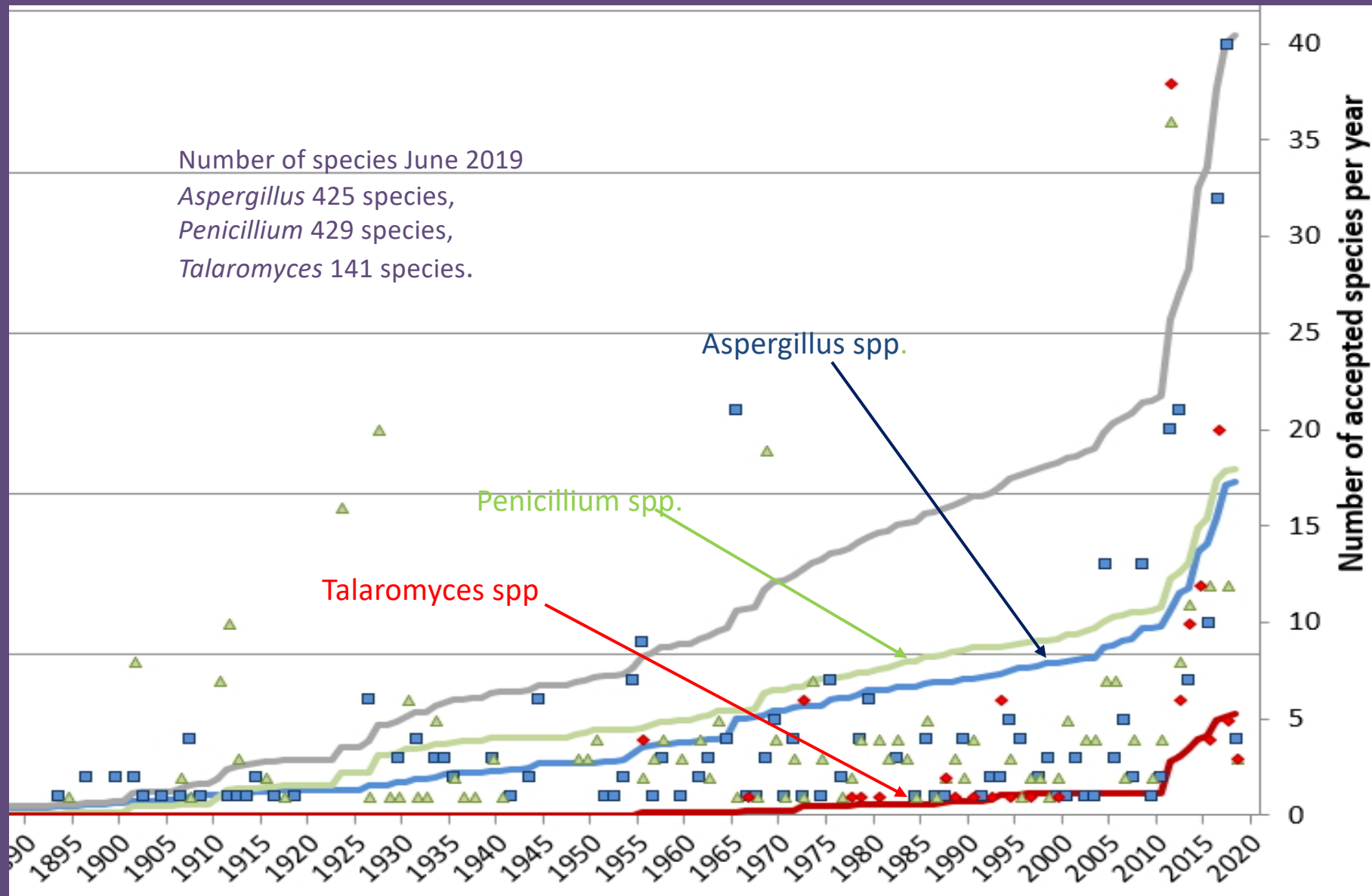


*Aspergillus porosus*



*Aspergillus zutongqii*

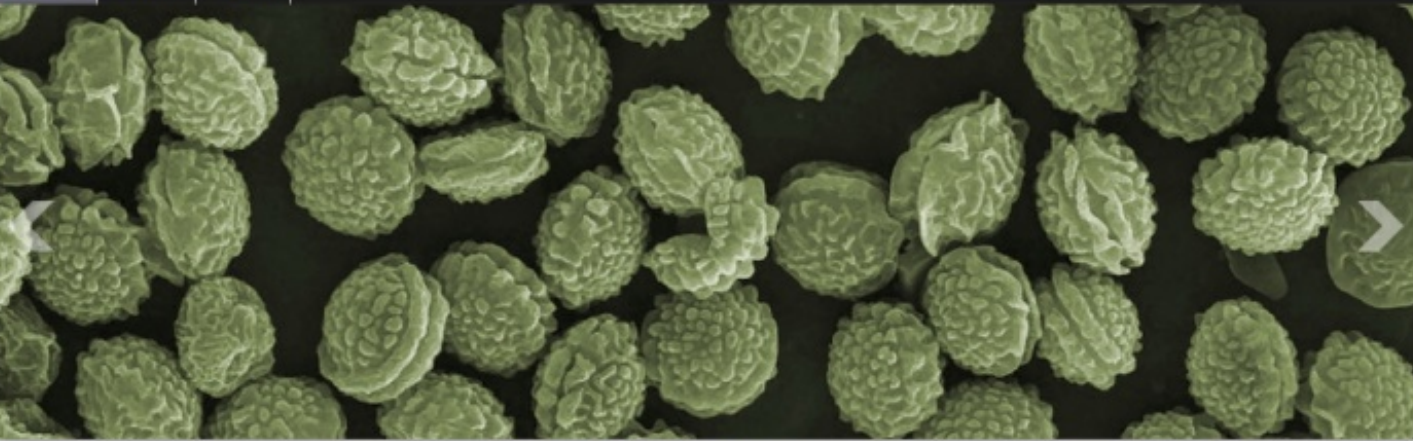




Courtesy of Jos Houbraken

## International Commission of Penicillium and Aspergillus

A Commission of the International Union of Microbiological Societies

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.....

You are here: Home

### TAXONOMY

[Taxonomy](#)[Species concept](#)[Nomenclature](#)[Publications](#)

The two genera *Aspergillus* and *Penicillium* are well-known and have been studied for centuries. Species of *Penicillium* and *Aspergillus* have always attracted much attention because numerous species of these genera have important implications in applied research, including medical aspects, toxicology, spoilage and biotechnology. Taxonomies produced in the last century were based on phenotypical characters but new polyphasic approaches are carried out using molecular, biochemical in combination with various phenotypical characters have shown detailed species profiles which are in accordance with ecological characteristics.

The International Commission of *Penicillium* and *Aspergillus* coordinate taxonomic research and was established by the IUMS

- ▣ Databases including correct species name, author(s), type culture and sequences are available for each species of the three genera

- ▣ Visit

[www.aspergilluspenicillium.org](http://www.aspergilluspenicillium.org)



# *Food borne mycobiota - taxonomy 2019*

- Biodiversity in the genera is high and the number of species will probably increase
- Species identification often provides also information about mycotoxins
- There are a few databases which can serve as reference material and identification
- Although the molecular tools are valuable phenotypic characters should be emphasized



# *Food borne mycobiota - taxonomy 2019*

- Phylogenetic species concept is sometimes problematic for phenotypic identification
- Many genera contain cryptic species
- Are taxonomic changes updated in the databases of the culture collections?
- Is there a continuation of taxonomic research?



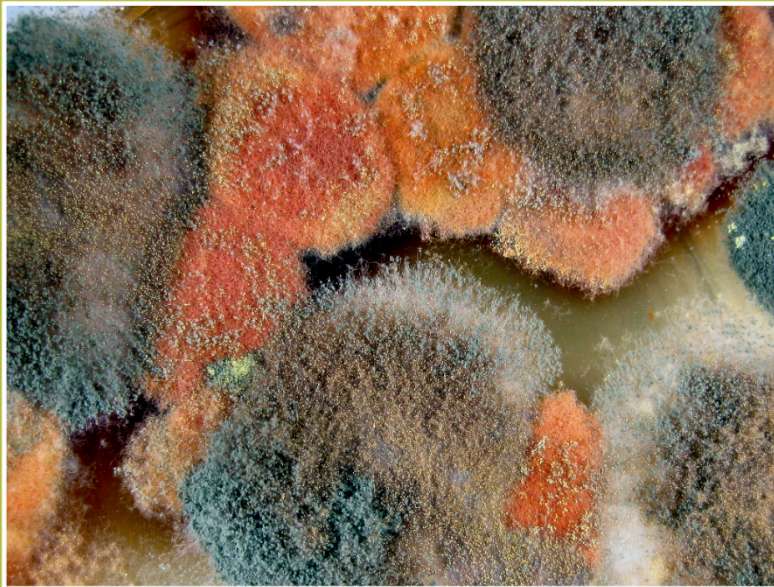


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will be in print at the end of June and  
available in July - August

