

Where Do Fungi Fit In?





Most Closely Related Kingdom?



Kingdom Fungi

 Although often mistaken for plants, fungi are unique from both plants and animals

Main Characteristics of Fungi

- Mostly Multicellular
- NO photosynthesis: *heterotrophic*
- Mostly terrestrial
- Mostly decomposers
- Cell wall made from chitin (a carbohydrate)
- reproduce sexually (using spores) and asexua



- Fungi are composed of HYPHAE (elongated cells that form a branching filamentous structure)
- Many hyphae are divided into individual cells by cell walls called SEPTA.



Non-Septate Hyphae



Septate Hyphae



 multiple hyphae forming a branching network of filaments is called a MYCELIUM



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Five Major Phyla



Phylum: Basidiomycota

- Key Features:
 - Produce "mushroom-cap" fruiting bodies
 - Mostly decomposers
 - Includes puffballs, and bracket fungi



Phylum: Ascomycota

Key Features:

- sexual spores formed in saclike "ascus"
- Important to humans for fermentation, and food
- Very diverse



Phylum: Ascomycota

- Examples of ascomycetes:
 - Yeasts
 - Truffles
 - Morels
 - Dutch Elm disease
 - Chestnut blight



Phylum: Glomeromycota

- Key Features
 - All form symbiotic relationships with plant roots



Phylum: Zygomycota

- Key Features:
 - Mostly soil fungi
 - Includes bread and fruit moulds
 - Multinucleate hyphae
 - Non-septate







Phylum: Chytridiomycota

- Key Features:
 - Mostly decomposers
 - Some unicellular, some multicellular
 - Some have "swimming spores"





Extracellular Digestion

- Fungi grow beside or on their food source
- They excrete digestive enzymes into the surrounding environment
- These enzymes breakdown their food into simpler molecules that can be absorbed into the hyphae



Symbiotic Relationships in Fungi

• Lichen

- Partnership between fungus and cyanobacteria, or green algae
 - Fungus provides structure, can digest / absorb nutrients and water and can protect from harsh conditions
 - Cyanobacteria or algae produce sugar (food)

Symbiotic Relationships in Fungi

• Mycorrhizae

- Partnership between fungus and plant roots
 - Fungus provides increased capacity for absorption of nutrients and water
 - **Plant** produces sugar (food)



Life Cycle of a Fungi



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Life Cycle of a Fungi



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Life Cycle of a Basidiomycete



Life Cycle of a Basidiomycete

