Proceedings of the 27th Annual General Meeting of the European Culture Collections' Organization

ECCO XXVII

10 - 11 June 2008
Ghent - Belgium

HARMONISATION & VALIDATION OF METHODS

THE WAY FORWARD FOR EUROPEAN CULTURE COLLECTIONS

BELGIAN SCIENCE POLICY

BCCM
NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN MICOTEC DA UNIVERSIDADE DO MINHO

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Poster 1

Micoteca da Universidade do Minho (MUM) is a filamentous fungi culture collection established in 1996 in the facilities of the Biological Engineering Department of Minho University, in the north of Portugal. The main goals of the culture collection are the maintenance and supply of strains for research in biotechnology and teaching and to be a centre of knowledge, information and training in mycology.

The collection now harbours strains of 140 species and 63 genera. Among our holdings are fungi producing extracellular enzymes, mycotoxins, fungi from tap and bottled water, and airborne fungi, isolated during research activities on biodegradation and biodeterioration, mycotoxins in food products and studies of indoor air quality in industrial and hospital environments. Penicillium and Aspergillus are the main genera represented in the culture collection in terms of species diversity and number of strains.

Since the very beginning we set out to build the culture collection on well established criteria taking into account relevant international recommendations and quality standards. The organization of data in a computer data base was one of our first concerns. Our data base was first built in the year 2000 and was reformulated in 2004 on a web based concept. The MUM website has been in use since 2000 providing on-line access to our public catalogue. The web page was recently upgraded and includes more adequate search facilities.

The internationalisation of MUM has been a priority. In the last decade, MUM became a member of ECCO and WFCC and is also registered in the WDCM with the number 816, and in the BioCase and StrainInfo. Net information services, with the aim to make its catalogue on fungal diversity available for global information. The international visibility of MUM was recently highlighted, since MUM was accepted as a data provider for the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) on the 14th of May 2008. With this achievement MUM is now the third Portuguese GBIF data provider hosting also the Portuguese Node Manager function. MUM keeping the Portuguese leadership on informatics is now able to foster other Portuguese microbial cultures collections to become GBIF data providers.