

Studies in Mycology

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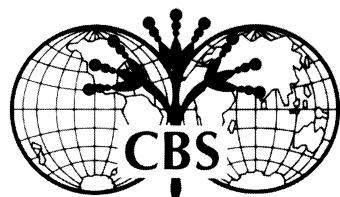
***Penicillium* subgenus *Penicillium*: new taxonomic schemes and mycotoxins and other extrolites**

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FOREWORD

The terverticillate Penicillia are among the most common fungi worldwide and they influence the everyday life of many people. These Penicillia have given us penicillin, mycophenolic acid, compactin, fungal steroid transformations, white and blue mould cheeses, fermented salamis, and extra cellular enzymes, but they have also been the cause of severe mycotoxicoses, allergy and indoor air problems. Thus a correct predictive classification and correct identifications are of paramount importance. If this classification also reflects phylogeny, the resulting polyphasic taxonomy would be of value for all biologists, food technologists and biotechnologists. We are proposing such predictive polyphasic taxonomy for these important Penicillia.

Our cooperation started in 1985, when Rob Samson invited Jens Frisvad to collaborate on *Penicillium* taxonomy, simply because the classical morphological approach of Melie Stolk and Rob Samson was so different from the physiological/biochemical approach of Jens Frisvad, that cooperation could only be synergistic. We believe that the taxonomy presented here is truly polyphasic, and that our suggested classification is supported by phylogenetic data made possible by the PCR revolution in molecular biology. Our approach presents a dialogue between classification and cladification with an emphasis on the former and apparently the two widely different approaches points to the same species and species series!

In our studies we have extensively used the profiles of secondary metabolites. We prefer the term extrolites for these fungal compounds which are defined as follows: *An extrolite is an outwardly directed chemical compound produced during differentiation of a living organism. An extrolite is usually excreted, but can also be accumulated in the cell wall or membrane. All extrolites are of a limited taxonomic distribution, while introlites (= primary metabolites = general metabolites) are widely distributed, examples of introlites being ergosterol in fungi and oxaloacetate in all living organisms. Since extrolites are outwardly directed, they are always involved in interactions between the organism producing it and any other organism or the abiotic environment. Extrolism is the metabolism of extrolites and their regulation. Organismal extrolism is regulated both by the genome and the biotic and abiotic environment [the developmental norm of reaction, see Schlichting and Pigliucci, 1998 Phenotypic evolution. A reaction norm perspective. Sinauer Associates, Inc. Publishers, Sunderland, Massachusetts (388 pp.)]*

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This publication is dedicated to the memory of Amelia C. Stolk.

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