

Fungi in the built environment:

next steps

It grows in the walls.
It chokes your child and renders your husband senseless.
It's your — and your insurers' — worst nightmare.

Haunted by



**Lurking,
Choking,
Toxic**

September 22-23 Berkeley, California

By Lisa Belkin

Melinda Ballard parks her cream-colored Jaguar next to her deserted dream house in Dripping Springs, Tex. — a house she fled more than two years ago, leaving dirty dishes in the sink and unopened mail on the counter. Popping open the Jag's trunk, she pulls out two portable respirator masks. "These won't screen out all the mycotoxins," she warns as she tosses one to me. "That's the dangerous stuff, so we'll only stay a few minutes."

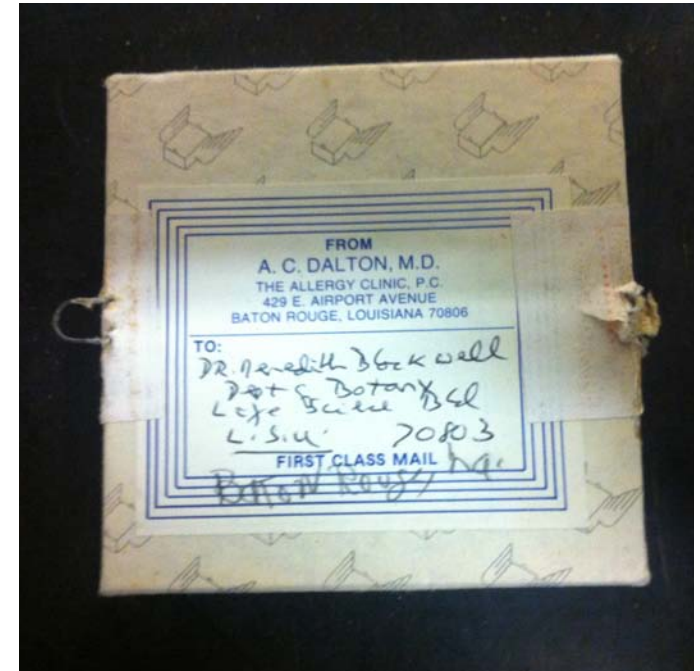
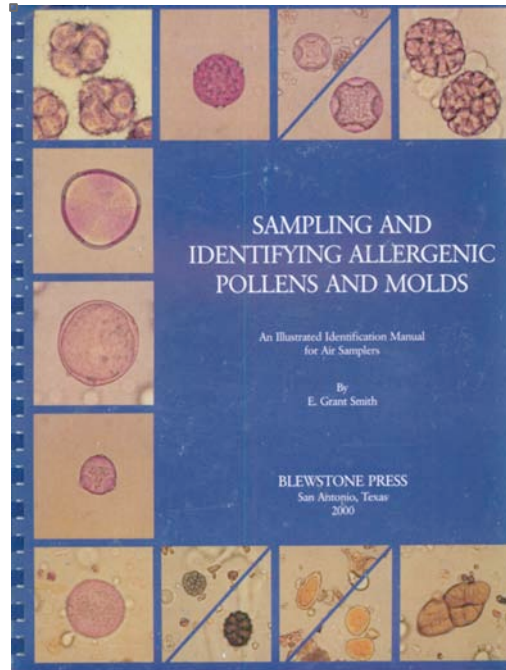
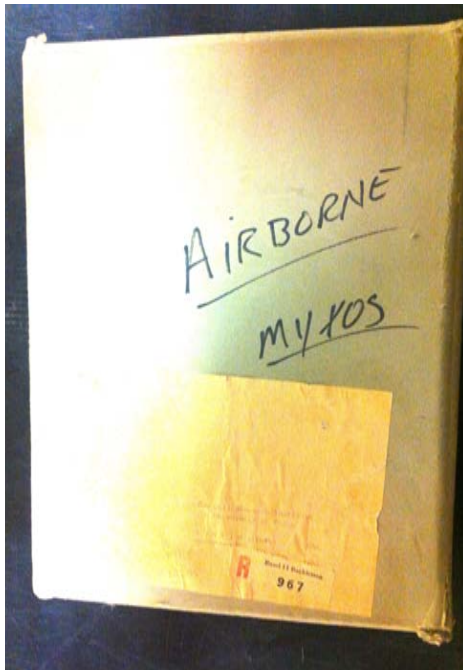
I follow as she wades through the strawlike remains of what was once a manicured garden, past the abandoned pool, the empty hot tub and the exquisite leaded glass that frames the front door. A sign on that door warns that we should really be wearing full Tyvek biohazard "moon suits" too, but this is a Texas summer, and we would probably die of heatstroke before the mycotoxins could get us. So we each fit a heavy black contraption over our noses

Photographs by Dan Winters

By Lisa Belkin

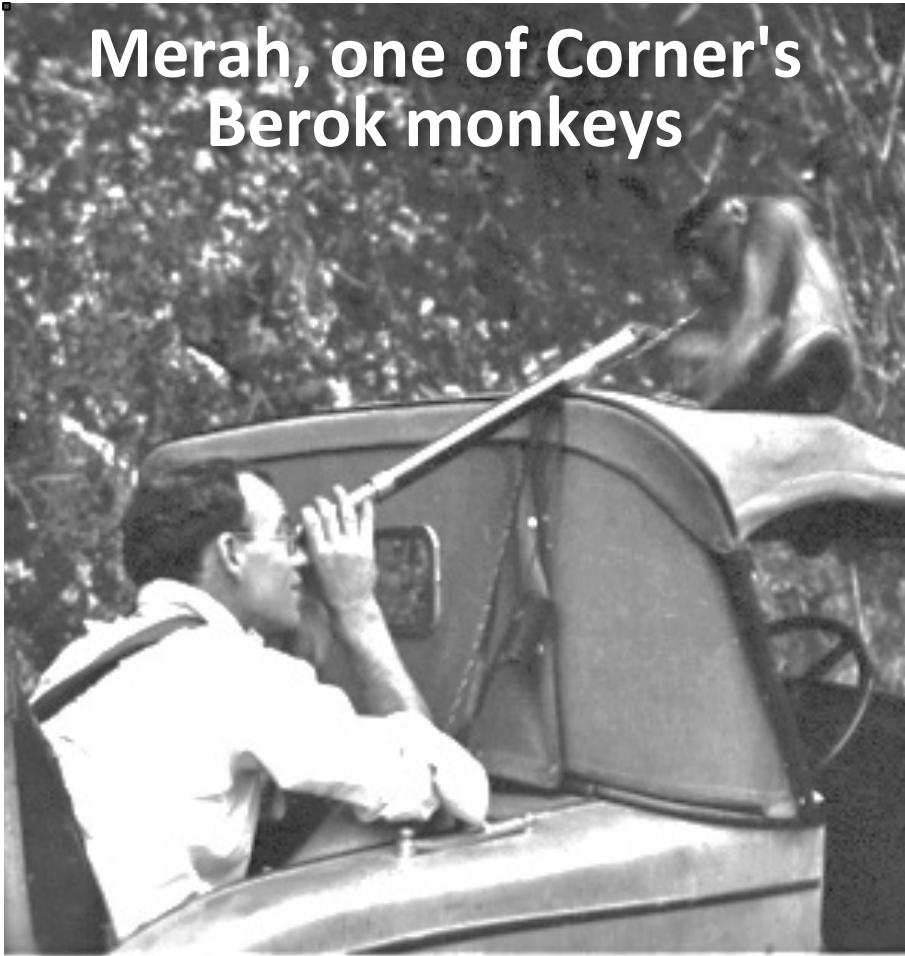
Disembodied spores

Meredith Blackwell. Identification of airborne myxomycete spores. AIBS, Athens, Georgia, August 1978. Invited Symposium Speaker. First talk!



“I have several reference books I use for mold identification. Three books will be a good start. E. Grant Smith's book on fungal and pollen spores is a must read for persons looking at Air-o-cell cassettes....” <http://sustainablemycology.blogspot.com>

Environmental sampling: fungi you never knew were in leaves



Merah, one of Corner's Berok monkeys

E.J.H. Corner
(1906-1996)

Monkey's New Career

FINDING it impossible to obtain specimens from points on trees that could not be reached by ladders or on branches too slender to support a man, Mr. E. J. H. Corner, assistant director of the Colony's botanical gardens, set out a few weeks ago to find a coconut-picking monkey of more than average ability.

In Merah, whom he located in Beroh kampung in Kelantan, Mr. Corner made a discovery. Seizing up a tree, with his lead threading behind him through the foliage, Merah implicitly follows instructions conveyed to him by means of tugs on the cord and by orders in Malay.

Nipping off the specimen pointed out to him, he drops it to the ground, clammers down himself and hands it to Mr. Corner, leaving himself against Mr. Corner's hand with one paw and handing up the leaf or flower with the other.

If the specimen catches on a branch on the way down, Merah's master just has to call "lecaa" to him and the monkey frees the object.

CONFUSED

Singapore Malay only confuses Merah. He looks bewildered if addressed in anything but pure Kelantan Malay. The Merah understanding is confined to such expressions as *harun*, *duase*, *arbit* *na*, *lepa*, *sack*, and, most important of all, *gangan* *gati*.

As soon as he left his remote jungle home in Kelantan, glory surrounded Merah. General Dobbin travelled south in the same train.

LISTENS FOR BANG

Mystified at first by the trappings of civilization confronting him in Singapore, the hairy little fellow from the wilds now gets his greatest thrill, when he is not climbing trees, in tagging at roller blind cords at the botanical gardens offices and listening for the bang.



Merah is here destroying a pencil. He has removed the indiarubber, half of which is in his left hand, the other half rolling round his tongue.



Merah holds aloft a leaf he has taken from the top of a tree.



Fungal identification

Arnold, A. E., Z. Maynard, G. Gilbert, P.D. Coley, and T. A. Kursar. 2000.

Are tropical fungal endophytes hyperdiverse?

Ecology Letters 3:267-274

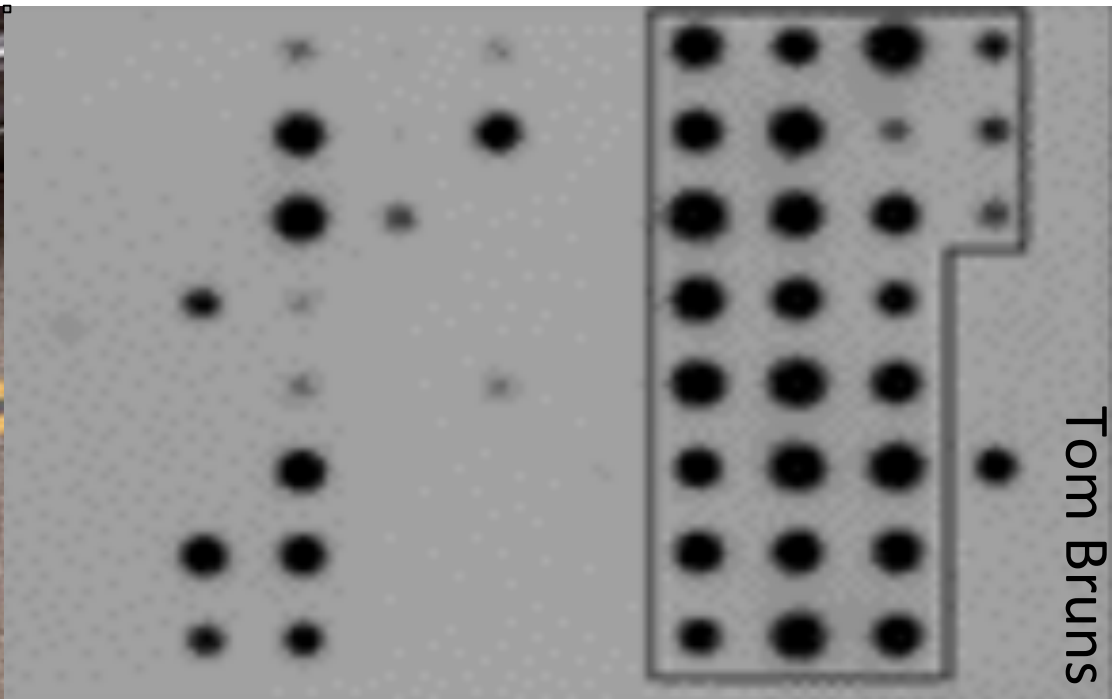
418 morphospecies from 83 leaves

C a l i f o r n i a inventions & applications

Botts' Dots



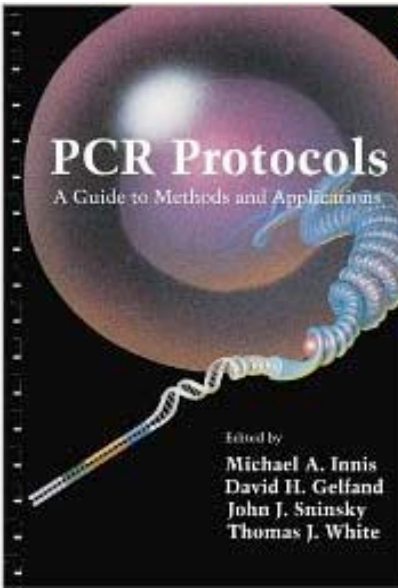
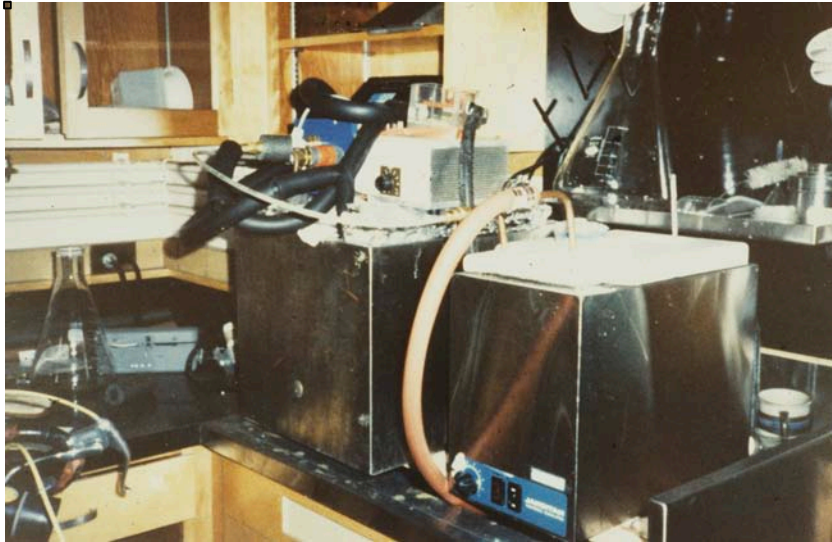
Dot Blots



Berkeley: More tools for environmental sampling

- Bruns TD, Gardes M. 1993. Molecular tools for the identification of ectomycorrhizal fungi: taxon-specific oligonucleotide probes for suilloid fungi. *Molecular Ecology*, 2, 233–242.
- Bruns TD, Szaro TM, Gardes M et al. 1998. A sequence database for the identification of ectomycorrhizal basidiomycetes by phylogenetic analysis. *Molecular Ecology*, 7, 257–272.
- Horton, TR & Bruns TD. 2001. The molecular revolution in ectomycorrhizal ecology: peeking into the black-box. *Molecular Ecology* 10:1855-1871.

White TJ, Bruns TD, Lee S, Taylor J. 1990. Amplification and direct sequencing of fungal ribosomal RNA genes for phylogenetics. In: Innis MA, Gelfand DH. (eds). PCR Protocols: A Guide to Methods and Applications. Academic Press: London, pp. 315-322.



Cited

by

14,138

21 September 2014

Early PCR machine made from kitchen appliances



Most scientific papers are cited just a few times, but seldom 100 times, and rarely a few thousand. The papers that earned Nobel prizes for UC Berkeley physicists Saul Perlmutter and George Smoot, for example, have been cited 8,882 and 2,260 times, respectively, according to Google Scholar. Berkeley News Center, September 14, 2012

barcode

150 participants

barcodel

150 participants

What do we want to learn at the workshop? more about databases/which fungi

- Adams RI, Amend AS, Taylor JW, Bruns TD. 2013. A unique signal distorts the perception of species richness and composition in high throughput sequencing surveys of microbial communities: a case study of fungi in indoor air. *Microbial Ecology* 66:735-741.
- Amend AS, Seifert KA, Samson R, Bruns TD. 2010. Indoor fungal composition is geographically patterned and more diverse in temperate zones than in the tropics. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 107:13748-53.
- Amend AS, Seifert KA, Bruns TD. 2010. Quantifying microbial communities with 454 pyrosequencing: does read abundance count? *Mol. Ecol.* 19:5555-5565.

Fungal bioinformatics

Sampling fungi

Where/how to sample

ITS only?

More DNA regions

Single cell genomics

Fine-scale sampling

What do we want to learn at the workshop? more about databases/which fungi

Microbiome of the Built Environment Data Analysis Core (MoBeDAC)



The data analysis core is a consortium among four different institutions to provide tools and a data archive for analyzing molecular sequence data and for visualizing ecological and functional similarities between microbial communities in the indoor environment and other field sites. This group will integrate the functional capabilities of several different toolsets and databases. [These include](#) MG-RAST, VAMPS, QIIME, and FungiDB.

The goals of this consortium are to:

- 1) Develop a data archive
- 2) Establish an interoperative environment for disparate websites and analysis tools
- 3) Establish appropriate metadata standards
- 4) Develop visualization and new analytical techniques for comparing microbial communities, especially those from indoor environments

Principle Investigators:

Folker Meyer, University of Chicago

Mitch Sogin, Marine Biological Laboratory

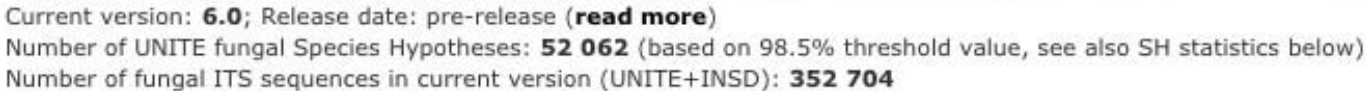
Rob Knight, University of Colorado Boulder

Jason Stajich, University of California, Riverside

to learn at the workshop? more about databases/which fungi



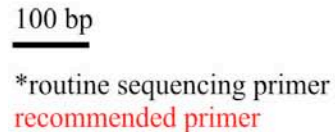
Ung



Number of UNITE fungal Species Hypotheses: **52 062** (based on 98.5% threshold value, see also SH statistics below)

Number of fungal ITS sequences in current version (UNITE+INSD): **352 704**

More early diverging

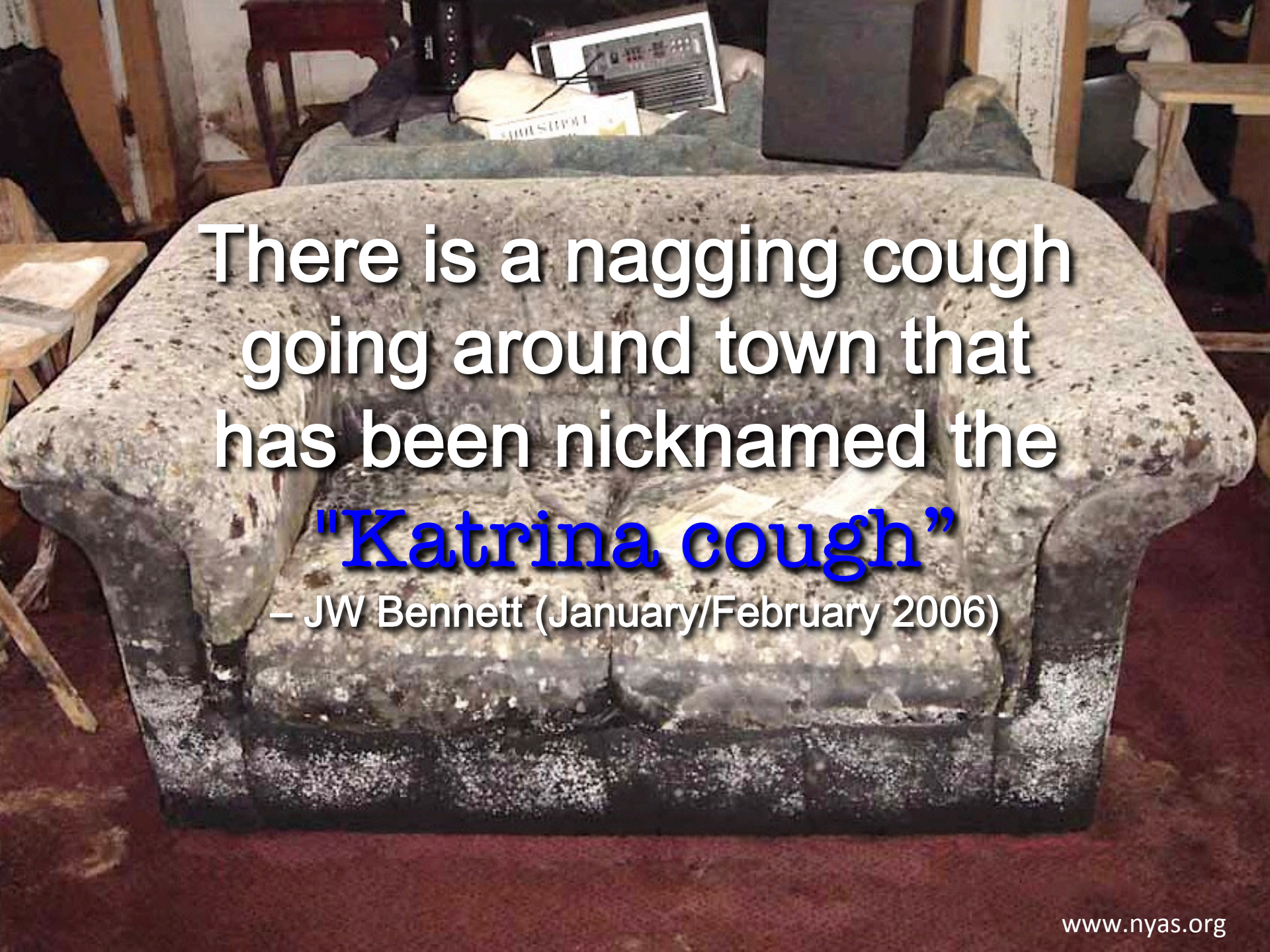


<http://unite.ut.ee/>

What do we want to learn at the workshop? more about

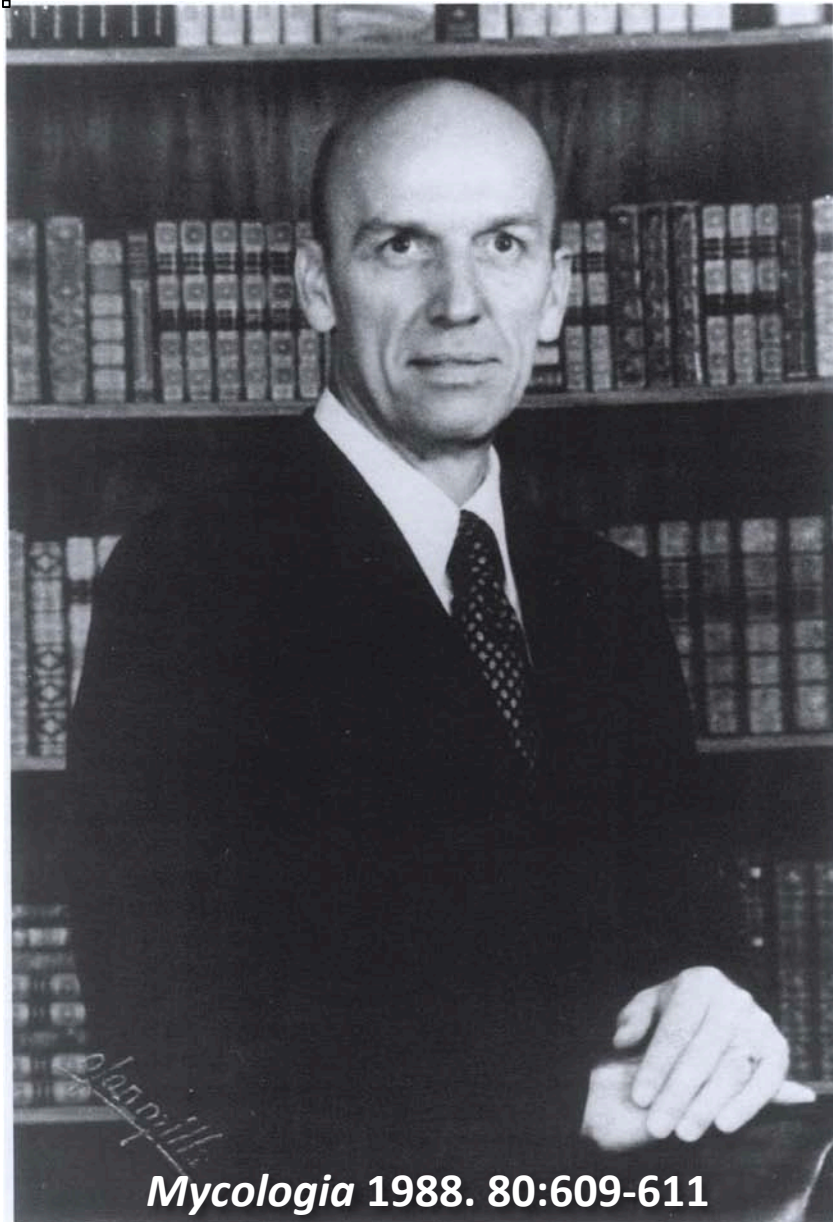
Fungi and health

Fungi indoors and their chemical products

A photograph of a severely damaged, dark-colored couch in a cluttered room. The couch is covered in mold, mildew, and stains, particularly along the edges and base. It sits on a red carpet. In the background, there is a wooden table, a chair, and various household items, including a small electronic device on a surface behind the couch. The overall scene suggests a state of neglect or the aftermath of a disaster.

There is a nagging cough
going around town that
has been nicknamed the
"Katrina cough"

– JW Bennett (January/February 2006)



Kenneth E. Papa (1931-1986)

- Papa, K. E., 1973. Parasexual cycle in *Aspergillus flavus*. *Mycologia* 65 1201–1205. Papa, K. E., 1979. Genetics of *Aspergillus flavus*—complementation and mapping of aflatoxin mutants. *Genet. Res.* 34 1–9.
- Papa, K. E., 1980. Dominant aflatoxin mutant of *Aspergillus flavus*. *J. Gen. Microbiol.* 118 279–282.
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- Papa, K. E., 1986. Heterokaryon incompatibility in *Aspergillus flavus*. *Mycologia* 78 98–101.

We need to learn
more about
solutions?



Are there easy fixes for
Inside?



Thanks



Rachel Adams



Paula Olsiewski