

REVIEW

Mining the oral mycobiome: Methods, components, and meaning

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ABSTRACT

Research on oral fungi has centered on *Candida*. However, recent internal transcribed spacer (ITS)-based studies revealed a vast number of fungal taxa as potential oral residents. We review DNA-based studies of the oral mycobiome and contrast them with cultivation-based surveys, showing that most genera encountered by cultivation have also been detected molecularly. Some taxa such as *Malassezia*, however, appear in high prevalence and abundance in molecular studies but have not been cultivated. Important technical and bioinformatic challenges to ITS-based oral mycobiome studies are discussed. These include optimization of sample lysis, variability in length of ITS amplicons, high intra-species ITS sequence variability, high inter-species variability in ITS copy number and challenges in nomenclature and maintenance of curated reference databases. Molecular surveys are powerful first steps to characterize the oral mycobiome but further research is needed to unravel which fungi detected by DNA are true oral residents and what role they play in oral homeostasis.

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Introduction

For over a century fungi have been recognized as commensal inhabitants of the human oral cavity. A study from the first half of the twentieth century recovered yeast-like organisms from the mouth of ~35% of subjects.¹ The incidence of yeast-positive cultures was higher, ~60%, in denture-wearers free of thrush lesions. The most consistently recovered yeast-like colonies were *Monilia* (now *Candida albicans*). However, individuals also harbored *Cryptococcus*, *Saccharomyces* and other unidentified “*Monilia*.” A study by Young et al.² yielded positive yeast cultures from the oral cavity in 48.6% of subjects (284/584). About 93% of isolates were *Candida albicans*; the remaining other *Candida* species or *Cryptococcus*. *Candida* spp. colonize the oral tissues at a very early age, with about 28% of children <2 years yielding positive cultures at multiple visits.³ These early studies established fungi as normal inhabitants of the human mouth.

Although the vast majority of research in oral mycology has focused on *Candida*, recent molecular studies revealed a diverse array of fungi as potential oral residents.^{4, 5} These results opened a new era for questions in oral mycology: Are detected fungi stable oral residents? What is the functional role of these species in the oral

ecosystem? Do non-*Candida* fungi play a role in oral health? In this review we evaluate the classic literature and contrast it with studies that use modern high throughput sequencing to characterize the oral mycobiome. We then consider challenges to the molecular analysis of oral fungi and present an overview of pressing questions that need resolution.

Classic studies on oral mycology

Candida species and oral candidiasis

Candida albicans is the most commonly cultivated and studied fungus from the oral cavity. *Candida* species, especially *C. albicans*, have been unequivocally linked to the etiology of oral thrush (candidiasis). The mean carriage rate for *C. albicans* in healthy individuals has been estimated at 17.7% (range 1.9–62.3%), based on cultivation.⁶ Carriage rates are usually higher in hospitalized patients, subjects under cancer therapy or with other immunosuppressive conditions, and in elderly individuals.^{6–8} Local factors associated with increased oral carriage of *Candida* spp. include low salivary flow^{9–11}, low pH^{2,12} and wearing a denture.^{11,13} The association of smoking and antibiotic intake with oral *Candida* colonization remains controversial with some studies showing an association,^{12,14,15} while others do not support a link.^{16,17}

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Species of *Candida* other than *albicans* are less frequently, but consistently, recovered from the oral cavity. These include *Candida glabrata*, *Candida tropicalis*, *Candida parapsilosis*, *Candida dubliniensis*, *Candida rugosa*, *Candida krusei* (currently *Pichia kudriazevii* and *Issatchenkia orientalis*), *Candida guilliermondii* (*Meyerozyma guilliermondii*) and *Candida lusitanae* (*Clavispora lusitanae*).^{2,18-22} *Candida* species other than *albicans* are more prevalent in immunosuppressed individuals, particularly those with a history of antifungal therapy, since species such as *C. glabrata* and *C. krusei* are naturally resistant to azoles.^{23,24}

Despite considerable research in oral candidiasis, it is not clear why some subjects develop the condition, while others with similar risk factors remain disease-free. Oral candidiasis can present clinically as a pseudomembranous condition or as erythematous and/or hyperplastic lesions²⁵. Most cases of oral candidiasis are associated with *C. albicans*, although some have been linked to *C. dubliniensis*, *C. glabrata*, *C. krusei* and *C. tropicalis*, either in isolation or more commonly as mixed infections sometimes including *C. albicans*.^{21,22} Molecular epidemiological studies show the origin of *C. albicans* infections is often attributable to endogenous strains.^{26,27} Although some resident strains of *C. albicans* are more pathogenic, it is not clear which specific genotypes increase risk for oral lesions.^{27,28} The main risk factor for oral candidiasis seems a pharmacologically-induced or naturally occurring impairment of the immune response, such as that in organ transplantation, HIV infection, cancer treatment or in specific immune defects such as autosomal dominant hyper IgE (HIES) syndrome.^{15,18,29} In HIES, mutations in STAT3 result in defects in T helper type 17 (Th17) cytokine production.³⁰ Animal models suggests that the Th17/IL-17 axis is essential for immunity to oral candidiasis, exerting its effects through upregulation of proinflammatory cytokines (IL-6), neutrophil-recruiting chemokines (CXCL1 and CXCL5) and antimicrobial peptides.³¹ Local factors may also play roles in risk for oral candidiasis. Saliva could offer protection aiding in *Candida* clearance either via aggregation or by direct killing through anti-fungal proteins such as histatin 5 and calprotectin.³² Dentures probably predispose to candidiasis by disrupting the epithelial barrier and promoting biofilm formation.³³

Cultivation-based studies of fungi other than *Candida*

Oral lesions not due to *Candida* are very rare and therefore few studies have focused on colonization by other genera. Cases of oral lesions associated with *Cryptococcus* spp., filamentous fungi (*Aspergillus* spp. and *Zygomycetes*), and dimorphic fungi (*Histoplasma*, *Blastomyces* and *Coccidioides*) have been reported but usually

involve severe immunosuppression and disseminated infection to extra-oral sites.³⁴⁻³⁶ *Histoplasma* and *Coccidioides* are likely acquired infections. Other fungi responsible for rare oral and systemic infections are likely opportunistic with the mouth potentially serving as infection reservoir. For instance, Knighton¹ and Young et al.² detected cryptococci in the oral mucosal surfaces of healthy subjects. *Aspergillus* species including *niger*, *versicolor* and *fumigatus* have also been frequently recovered.³⁷⁻³⁹

Few broad cultivation surveys of fungi from the oral cavity exist (Fig. 2). A contributing factor was the indication that the origin of cultivated fungi other than *Candida* was environmental.⁴⁰ More recent studies with air-exposed control plates or plating under laminar flow contradict these findings.^{38,41} Gomes et al.³⁸ reported filamentous fungi in 28.3% of samples from root canals of teeth with pulp necrosis in a study including air-exposed control plates. Five *Aspergillus* species were identified (*ustus*, *granulosus*, *niger*, *sydowii*) and *Emericella quadriluniata* (sexual form of *Aspergillus*). Four *Penicillium* species (*implicatum*, *micsynvisk*, *lividum* and *citronigrum*) were recovered. Other taxa represented were *Fusarium* (*moniliforme* and *melanochorum*), *Aureobasidium pullulans*, *Exophiala jeanselmei*, *Eurotium amstelodame* and *Cladosporium sphaerospermum*. In a recent, carefully-controlled, cultivation study, Monteiro da Silva et al.⁴¹ investigated oral fungi in 40 healthy subjects. Growth was evaluated at 25°C and 37°C. The most commonly isolated fungi were species of *Candida* (67.5%), *Rhodotorula* (75%), *Penicillium* (85%), *Aspergillus* (75%), *Cladosporium* (72.5%), *Trichoderma* (10%), *Scedosporium* (7.5%), *Alternaria* (5%) and *Rhizopus* (2.5%). More samples produced cultures at 25°C, 100% yielding molds and 92.5% yielding yeasts. At 37°C, 42.5% produced molds and 45% produced yeasts. Three factors argue against environmental contamination to explain these high recovery rates: 1) use of sterile conditions including laminar flow; 2) variability in taxa colonizing participants and 3) replication of subject-specific colonization profiles in 10 subjects at 2 additional time points, including a seasonal climatic change.

Additional studies have also recovered fungi other than *Candida* from a few subjects. *Saccharomyces* spp. and *Rhodotorula rubra* were isolated from oral swabs of radiotherapy patients.⁴² *Rhodotorula mucilaginosa*, *Trichosporon mucoides* and *Cryptococcus humicolus* were isolated from infected root canals and saliva.⁴³ Also, Miranda et al.⁴⁴ reported *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* and *Kluyveromyces lactis* from the tongue.

The oral mycobiome surveyed via molecular methods

Universal primers and amplicon sequencing enabled broad spectrum surveys of microbiota circumventing limitations of cultivation approaches. The most widely-used locus for mycobiota surveys is the internal transcribed spacer (ITS) between the 18S and 28S rRNA genes. The ITS includes the most rapidly-evolving ITS1, the highly conserved 5.8S and the moderately to rapidly evolving ITS2.⁴⁵⁻⁴⁷ Figure 1 shows a map of the ITS region and primer sets used in oral mycobiome studies.

Aas et al.⁴⁸ conducted one of the earliest amplicon-based sequencing studies of the oral mycobiome. Their primers were capable of amplifying the 18S gene from a variety of medically-important species.⁴⁹ Cloned amplicons from subgingival plaque of HIV-positive subjects were Sanger sequenced. Only *Candida albicans* and *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* were found.

The first comprehensive survey of the oral mycobiome employing universal primers and high throughput sequencing analyzed oral rinse samples of 20 healthy individuals.⁴ Although *Candida* was the most frequently detected genus (75% of subjects; *C. albicans* identified in 40%), a diverse array of fungi were revealed as potential oral residents. Fifteen genera were present in more than 20% of subjects and designated the “core” mycobiome. A later study by the same group compared the mycobiome of 12 HIV-positive

subjects to 12 controls.⁵⁰ Results confirmed previously reported taxa and also showed a negative correlation between abundance of *Candida* and *Pichia*. An investigation of the in vitro interaction of *Pichia* and other fungi found that spent media from a *Pichia farinosa* strain inhibited growth of *Candida*, *Aspergillus* and *Fusarium*. The most commonly reported *Pichia* in oral mycobiome studies are *Pichia guilliermondii* (*Candida/Meyerozyma guilliermondii*) and *Pichia jadinii* (*Cyberlindnera jadinii*).^{4,5,51} It is not clear that *Pichia farinosa* is part of the oral mycobiome. Nevertheless, this study highlights the potential for fungal interactions to modulate oral mycobiome composition.

Our group recently characterized fungi in unstimulated saliva of healthy individuals using ITS1 pyrosequencing.⁵ Our results are in good agreement with Ghannoum et al.⁴ in identifying *Candida*, *Pichia*, *Cladosporium/Davidiella*, *Alternaria/Lewia*, *Aspergillus/Emericella*, *Eurotium*, *Fusarium/Gibberella*, *Cryptococcus/Filobasidiella*, and *Aureobasidium*. However, our study uniquely identified *Malassezia* as a prominent commensal in all individuals (abundance 13% to 96%) (Fig. 2). Since *Malassezia* species had never been reported as oral residents, we eliminated the possibility of contamination through rigorous negative controls. *Malassezia* are well-known skin commensals, also recoverable from respiratory tracts, and therefore oral residency is very plausible.^{52,53} Lack of detection in previous cultivation

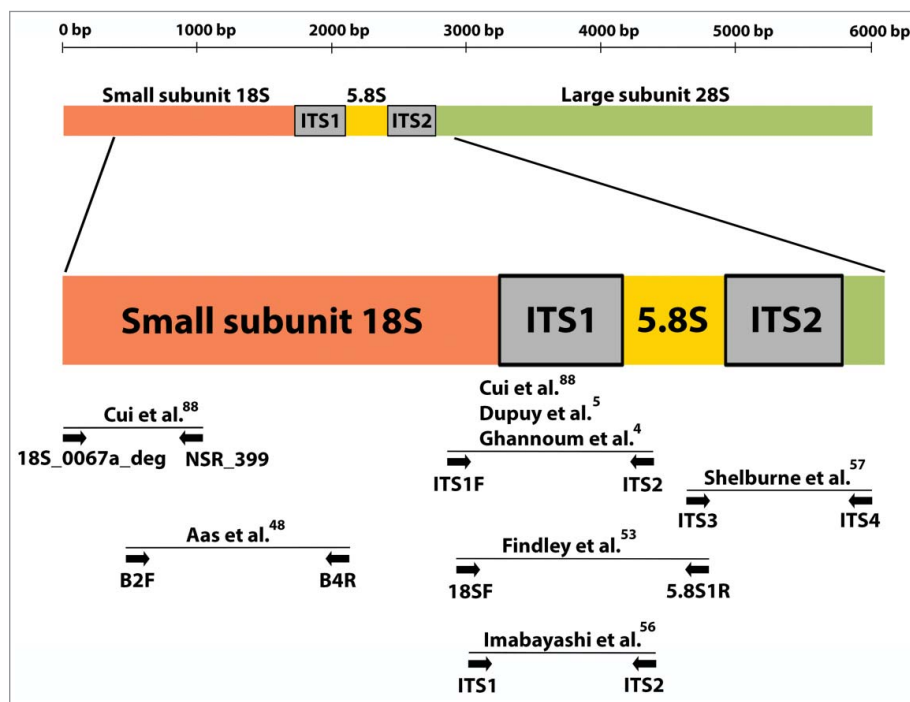


Figure 1. Schematic diagram of the nuclear ribosomal repeat unit in fungi. This region includes the 18S, 5.8S and 28S rRNA genes and the internal transcribed spacers (ITS) 1 and 2. Sites of universal primers used by molecular surveys of the oral mycobiome and by one landmark skin mycobiome study are indicated by arrows. As seen in the Figure, studies commonly rely on ITS1 amplification.

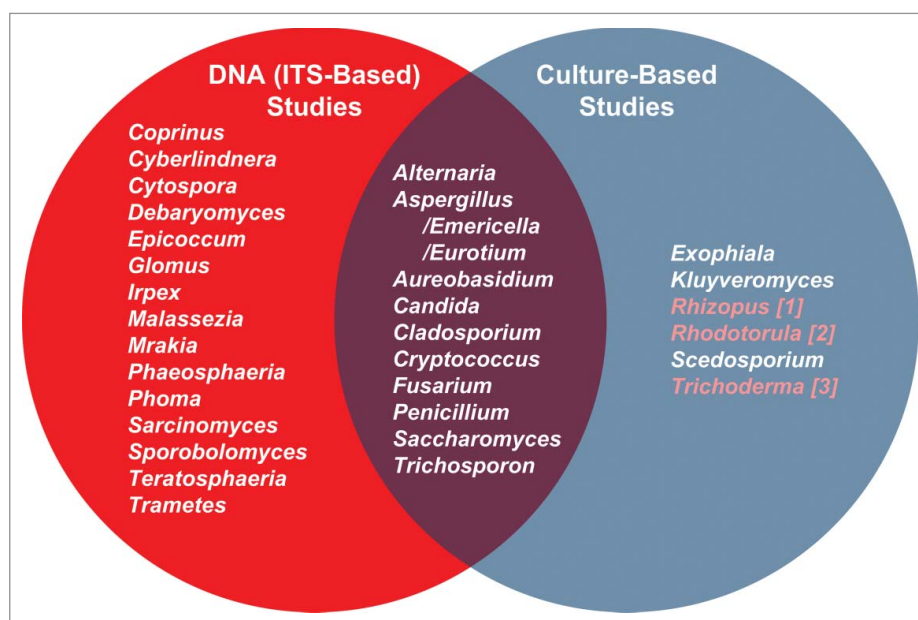


Figure 2. Comparison of oral mycobiome members (genus-level) as identified by molecular and culture-based approaches. Most prevalent oral genera (appearing in ~20% of subjects in Ghannoum et al.⁴ and Dupuy et al.⁵) DNA sequencing studies are in the left circle. Those studies^{38,41,42,44} appear in the right circle. The overlap in the Venn diagram illustrates the fungal genera identified by both approaches. Highlighted genera in the culture-based list are those present in our saliva data set but at less than 20% frequency.⁵ The molecular studies were conducted on systemically healthy individuals, while culture-based studies included both healthy and cancer patients. Samples in the molecular studies included oral rinses and unstimulated saliva, while samples for the cultivation studies included oral rinses, mucosal swabs and contents of infected root canals. Despite these differences, there is great agreement between the molecular surveys and cultivation studies with most taxa detected by cultivation also seen molecularly.

studies was likely due to media that do not support *Malassezia* growth.⁴¹ *Malassezia* have an incomplete fatty acid synthesis pathway requiring addition of lipids.^{54,55} Lack of previous molecular detection is attributable to cell lysis methods, since studies reporting *Malassezia* in human compartments employed very harsh protocols^{5,53,56,57} necessary for disrupting the thick cell walls of *Malassezia*. We use bead-beating with high-density 0.5 mm yttria-zirconia beads for lysis and have noticed that even small variations in homogenization speed can greatly impact DNA yields from *Malassezia* (Fig. 3a). These results emphasize the need for validated protocols to improve detection of resident taxa.

A recent longitudinal microbiome characterization in a leukemia patient further corroborates our finding of *Malassezia* as a prominent commensal. *Malassezia* spp. dominated oral communities (buccal swabs) during certain time points of chemotherapeutic treatment.⁵⁷ In contrast to oral samples, stool from the same individual did not show *Malassezia*. Other abundant fungi in the oral cavity of this patient included *C. albicans*, *C. glabrata*, *Fusarium* spp. and *Alternaria* spp. *Mucor ventilosus* was also detectable in oral samples prior to occurrence of invasive mucormycosis, with the oral cavity potentially serving as the infection source.

Recently, the oral mycobiome was compared between healthy subjects and those suffering oral candidiasis.⁵⁶ The mycobiomes of subjects with candidiasis were dominated by *C. albicans*, but *C. tropicalis* and *C. dublinensis* were also detected in some subjects in moderately high abundance. Interestingly, antifungal treatment did not dramatically change the mycobiome with only *C. dublinensis* decreasing while *C. albicans* increased proportions. The “healthy” mycobiome was not markedly different from the “candidiasis” mycobiome, both dominated by *C. albicans*. These results suggest that strain shifts, changes in load, altered pathogenic potential or host-related factors, rather than simple alterations in *C. albicans* proportions are associated with clinical symptoms.

In summary, pioneering molecular studies relying on saliva or oral rinses revealed highly diverse fungal communities in the human mouth. Detailed characterization of fungal biogeography at different oral sites is lacking. Cultivation studies suggest *Candida* species are more abundant in the posterior half of the tongue.^{1,12,58} Is there partitioning of other fungal species across oral sites? Also, are there relationships between fungi and other dental diseases? Beyond the association of *Candida* spp. with oral candidiasis, and suggested relationships between *Candida* carriage, salivary pH and caries,^{2,59} no

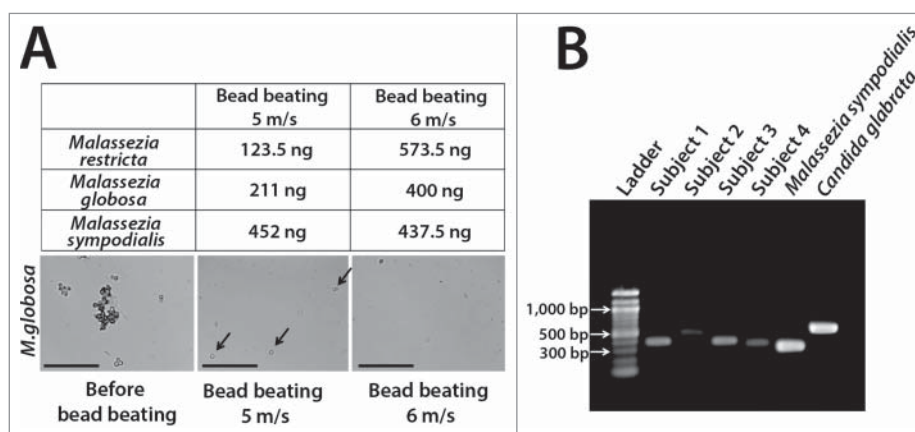


Figure 3. Examples of technical challenges important in the molecular evaluation of oral fungi. Table in Panel A shows yields after DNA extraction of standardized *Malassezia* cell suspensions (5×10^7 cells) using slightly different bead-beating speeds. DNA was extracted using yttria-zirconia beads following a protocol developed by our group.⁵ Samples were subjected to bead-beating (3×30 sec) in an MP Biomedicals FastPrep™ instrument using a speed of 5 m/s or 6 m/s. Notice that this small variation almost doubled DNA recovery for *M. restricta* and *M. globosa* while it did not affect DNA yield for *M. sympodialis*. Arrows in middle phase-contrast micrograph show intact *M. globosa* cells after bead-beating using the 5 m/s setting. Scale bar = 50 μ m. Panel B shows dramatic differences in amplicon length in the ITS1 region. Amplicons were generated from saliva samples of 4 subjects and from 2 reference strains using a published protocol.⁵ Such variation in amplicon length may introduce bias in abundance estimates as shorter fragments are preferentially sequenced.

further evaluation of oral health in the context of the mycobiome has been conducted.

Challenges in oral mycobiome analysis

In addition to lysis optimization, other technical and bio-informatic aspects to ITS-based surveys must be taken into account. These include differences in ITS amplicon lengths, variable rates of intra-species ITS sequence variation, variable number of ITS genomic copies among taxa and challenges in nomenclature and maintenance of comprehensively curated reference databases.

Fungal ITS amplicon lengths can differ greatly among taxa. Figure 3b shows ITS1 amplicons ranging from ~200 to ~600 bps in saliva and reference strains. ITS amplicon fragments from mouse and human fecal samples also vary in length (170 to 550 bp).⁶⁰ Awareness of length discrepancies is especially necessary with bidirectional sequencing approaches since overlap between forward and reverse reads will differ. There is also potential bias in abundance estimates due to preferential amplification of the shorter fragments.⁶⁰

The sequence variation in the fungal ITS region makes it ideal for phylogenetics. However, the degree of intra-species variability is remarkably different among fungi.⁴⁵ In a comprehensive analysis, Nilsson et al.⁴⁵ showed that ITS intra-species variation is above the 3% threshold in $\frac{1}{4}$ of fungal species, with ITS1 being more variable than ITS2. In practice, the combination of multiple alignment difficulties for different amplicon lengths and high intra-species sequence variation render

unreliable the automated pipelines that separate sequence reads by similarity thresholds to delineate species-level operational taxonomic units (OTU)s. Therefore, most ITS-based studies employ taxonomic identification of individual sequences followed by grouping based on assigned names.

Total fungal load is a critical piece of information for clinical samples, but quantitative molecular methods used for other organisms are of limited value for fungi. While methods for fungal load using universal primers and real time PCR exist⁶¹, the interspecific (inter-species) variability in ITS copy number (few to ~250 copies) makes overall quantitative estimates challenging. Even with species-specific primers, intraspecific copy number differences make the quantitative estimate of fungal cells or spores difficult in the absence of prior knowledge of copy numbers and relative abundance of different strains. Some species of important oral mycobiome members show discrepancies in copy number among strains. *Candida albicans* strains have been shown to vary ~4-fold (56-222 copies)⁶², while *Aspergillus fumigatus* strains differ ~2.5-fold (38-91)⁶³.

A daunting challenge in mycobiome research is the confusing state of nomenclature. Unlike other organisms, a single fungus was permitted multiple names (reflecting asexual/sexual morphs, or diverse historical or geographical discoveries). Compounding nomenclature confusion was assignment of species to genera without phylogenetic support. These uncertainties are amplified in some oral mycobiome genera such as *Candida* or *Cryptococcus* that were depositories for varied

anamorphic fungi. Unification of nomenclature is important to avoid reporting synonyms as different fungi, especially given the reliance of mycobiome studies on groupings by taxonomy. A recent goal has been to minimize nomenclature confusion through the “one name one fungus” (1N1F) initiative.^{64,65} International working groups are currently creating morphological, biochemical and multigene phylogenetic descriptions to inform recommendations for nomenclature (e.g. Consolidated Species Concept⁶⁶). Subject to formal approvals, some recommendations have been published, which we have used to revisit nomenclature for oral cavity genera (Table 1). Our intent is not to provide a simple selection chart, but rather to alert researchers working on oral communities to the complexities of fungal nomenclature and to direct to more complete sources of information. Two major contributors to nomenclature adjustments are 1) historical assignments of different names to the same fungus and 2) new assignments due to phylogenetic circumscription. In the first instance, some synonyms arose when asexual (anamorphic) and sexual (teleomorphic) forms were assigned different names. These are resolved by reassigning members of one of the genera to the protected genus of the pair, joining other legitimate species in the phylogenetically circumscribed genus. In Table 1, *Lewia* joins *Alternaria*, *Davidiella* joins *Cladosporium*, *Cochliobolus* joins *Curvularia*. In the second instance, new phylogenetic circumscription of genera can change nomenclature. An illustration is the large, heterogeneous, genus *Candida*. A recent reclassification⁶⁷ considered 434 *Candida* species that were reassigned to 15 genera and clades. Most relevant to the oral mycobiome is the delineation of the genus *Candida* to 31 species, including many oral members (i.e. *albicans*, *dubliniensis*, *parapsilosis*, *tropicalis* and others) that will not change names.

Since mycobiome studies rely on taxonomic identification to group sequences, well-curated databases are a necessity. Publicly available repositories contain about 20% of sequences incorrectly annotated at the species level.⁶⁸ Many GenBank ITS sequences are annotated as “fungi” or “uncultured fungi;” with some shown to originate from primer artifacts.⁵ Three commonly used databases, Findley et al.,⁵³ UNITE⁶⁹ and Fungal ITS RefSeq Targeted Loci Project (RTL) were recently evaluated using a single mouse fecal ITS library.⁶⁰ Unsurprisingly, the distribution of fungi depended on the database and the authors ultimately constructed a niche-specific reference set. A recent, curated, quality-controlled database of 3400 ITS sequences covering 524 human and animal pathogens was constructed to aid in identification of causes of mycoses.⁷⁰ A specific database for oral fungi would be

an invaluable resource for tracking nomenclature evolution, avoiding inclusion of redundant taxa, and allowing accurate taxonomic assignments.

Ultimately, a full understanding of the roles of fungi in oral health and disease requires species level resolutions. As discussed earlier, the ITS power of discrimination for species varies widely. As a result, a number of additional gene sequences have been used in various “multigene” studies. One example uses *EFI α* (translation elongation factor), *RPB2* (subunit B2 of RNA polymerase II), β -tubulin, actin, calmodulin, LSU and ITS to create more robust phylogenies and reference sequence datasets.⁶⁶ One can envision that selective multigene approaches may become useful in circumstances when ITS is insufficient.

A glimpse into the future

In addition to the need to explore oral fungal biogeography is one to evaluate whether fungi detected by DNA are functional residents of the oral biocompartment, rather than a transient environmental presence. Cultivation studies with appropriate media to target growth of prevalent molecularly-detected species would help answer this question. For instance, lipid-enriched media to support growth of *Malassezia* would confirm their presence as true mycobiome residents. Such studies should employ rigorous laboratory conditions and negative controls to exclude environmental contaminants. Also, longitudinal studies that include seasonal changes could help separate transient environmental fungi from permanent residents.

One reason that the study of oral fungi has lagged behind that of oral bacteria is the comparatively lower biomass of fungi in the mouth. The number of cultivable yeasts ranges from 10 to 10,000 per mL of saliva, with the majority of specimens at 1,000 or less.^{2,41} The concentration of molds recovered from healthy subjects by cultivation of oral rinse is also low, not exceeding 10 cells per mL.⁴¹ These data sharply contrast with salivary bacterial load between 10^8 to 10^{10} 16S rRNA gene copies per mL (unpublished data). Gut microbiome studies indicate that small numbers of fungi could have surprisingly strong effects on immunological responses and the composition of the bacterial microbiome.^{71,72} Therefore, low biomass should not deter interest in the effects of fungi in the oral ecosystem.

Finally, a combination of molecular-based clinical surveys and model-based research using in vivo and in vitro systems will be necessary to fully understand the roles of fungi in oral health. Pressing questions include: How do fungal oral commensals affect immune responses? How do oral fungi and bacteria interact? Are

Table 1. Naming Information for Genera Reported in the Human Oral Cavity. Protected/preferred names, synonyms and references are presented for an expanded list of fungal genera (this review, Dupuy et al.⁵). Sexual (T) and asexual (A) forms are designated. Only genus level information is presented, however it should be noted that not all species within a genus have synonyms in only one other genus and thus ultimate decisions on preferred names should be taken at the species-level. Lack of entry in the synonyms column *does not* imply that there are no synonyms but rather that there may be many possible synonyms. Readers are directed to the literature citations, MycoBank or Index Fungorum for extensive listings of alternate names and reassignments of species to new or different genera. Absence of entry in the basis for decision column means that information from MycoBank and/or Index Fungorum was used to infer legitimacy and currency of names.

PROTECTED OR PREFERRED NAME	SYNONYMS	REFERENCE
Agaricus		
Alternaria	Lewia, Allewia, Crivellia	Zhang et al. ⁷³ , Rossman et al. ⁷⁴
Aspergillus	Eurotium, Emericella	Controversial: Pitt and Taylor ⁷⁵ ; Samson et al. ⁷⁶
Aureobasidium		
Bipolaris	Cochliobolus (T)	Rossman et al. ⁷⁴
Bullera	Bulleromyces, hanna clades	Liu et al. ⁷⁸
Candida	Lodderomyces, several genera	Daniel et al. ⁶⁷
Cladosporium	Davidiella (T)	Rossman et al. ⁷⁴
Coprinus	Coprinopsis, Coprinellus	
Cryptococcus	Neoformans/gatti complex, Filobasidiella(T)	Liu et al. ⁷⁸
Curvularia (A)	Pseudococciobolus	Rossman et al. ⁷⁴
Cyberlindnera	Pichia, Candida, others	Daniel et al. ⁶⁷
Cystofilobasidium (T)	Some Cryptococcus species	Liu et al. ⁷⁸
Cytospora (A)	Valsa (T), Valsella, Valseutypella, Leucostoma	Rossman et al. ⁷⁷
Debaryomyces		Daniel et al. ⁶⁷
Didymella	Genus Peyronellaea, Phoma	Chen et al. ⁷⁹
Dioszegia	Dioszegia clade (includes some Cryptococcus)	Liu et al. ⁷⁸
Epicoccum	Several Phoma	Chen et al. ⁷⁹
Erythrobasidium	Sporobolomyces	Wang et al. ⁸⁰
Exophiala		
Filobasidium (T)	Filobasidium clade (includes some Cryptococcus)	Liu et al. ⁷⁸
Fusarium	Gibberella	Rossman et al. ⁸¹
Glomus		
Hanseniaspora (T)	Kloeckera (A)	Daniel et al. ⁶⁷
Irpex	Synonyms in several genera	
Kluyveromyces		Kurtzman ⁸²
Lenzites	Trametes, others	
Leptosphaerulina		Chen et al. ⁷⁹
Malassezia		Wu et al. ⁵⁵
Mrakia	Mrakia clade (includes some Mrakiella)	Liu et al. ⁷⁸
Naganishia	Cryptococcus albus clade	Liu et al. ⁷⁸
Penicillium	Eupenicillium	Redhead et al. ⁸³ , Zhang et al. ⁷³
Phaeosphaeria	Phaeoseptoria	Rossman et al. ⁷³
Phoma	Atradiidymella, others	Chen et al. ⁷⁹
Pichia		Daniel et al. ⁶⁷
Pisolithus	Synonyms in several genera	
Pyrenochaetopsis		Chen et al. ⁷⁹
Ramularia (T)	Mycosphaerella (A)	Quaedvlieg et al. ⁶⁶ , Rossman et al. ⁷³
Rhizocarpon	Synonyms in several genera	
Rhizopus		Hoffman et al. ⁸⁴
Rhodospordiobolus	Rhodospordium/Sporidiobolus Rhodotorula(A)/ Rhodospordium (T) Sporobolomyces(A)/Sporidiobolus(T)	Wang et al. ⁸⁰
Rhodotorula	Rhodospordium (T) in Rhodospordium clade	Wang et al. ⁸⁰
Saccharomyces		Kurtzman ⁸² , Daniel et al. ⁶⁷
Sarcinomyces		
Scedosporium		Lackner and de Hoog ⁸⁵
Sporobolomyces (A)	Sporidiobolus (T) in Sporobolomyces clade	Wang et al. ⁸⁰
Talaromyces (T)	Penicillium (A)	Redhead et al. ⁸³ , Yilmaz et al. ⁸⁶
Taphrina (T)	Lalaria (A)	Daniel et al. ⁶⁷
Tausonia	Guehomyces, Trichosporon	Liu et al. ⁷⁸
Teratosphaeria	Kirramyces, Colletogloeopsis	Quaedvlieg et al. ⁶⁶ Rossman et al. ⁷⁴
Torulasporea		Kurtzman ⁸²
Trametes		Carlson et al. ⁸⁷
Trichoderma (A)	Hypocrea (T)	Rossman et al. ⁸⁷
Trichosporon		
Walleimia	Bargellinia	

fungi “accessory” pathogens in oral diseases apart from their direct involvement in candidiasis? Molecular surveys are powerful first steps toward understanding the

oral mycobiome, but mechanistic studies are necessary to uncover the functional roles of fungi in oral homeostasis.

Disclosure of potential conflicts of interest

No potential conflicts of interest were disclosed.

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