

Fungi culture collection at the Centro Venezolano de Colecciones de Microorganismos (CVCM).

Author(s) Maria Mercedes Panizo¹, Vera Reviakina¹, Maribel Dolande¹, Juana Vitelli-Flores², Vidal Rodriguez-Lemoine²

Institution(s) 1. INHRR, Instituto Nacional de Higiene Rafael Rangel, Caracas, Venezuela 2. IBE-UCV, Instituto de Biología Experimental-UCV, Caracas, Venezuela

Abstract:

CVCM is an open collection, formed by collections of public or private institutions, grouped in a node system with academic and administrative autonomy. It is responsible for the national inventory of microorganisms preservation, belongs to the World Federation for Culture Collections (CVCM-WFCC815), and is a founder member of the Federacion Latinoamericana de Colecciones de Cultivos (FELACC). It maintains a database (CVCMdata), periodically publishes a catalog (www.cvcm.ucv.ve), and the most representative microorganisms are registered in the World Data Centre for Microorganisms (WFCC MIRCEN: www.wdcm.riken.go.jp). The central node has its main office at the Instituto de Biología Experimental (IBE) of the Universidad Central de Venezuela (UCV) and maintains a wide collection of bacteria, actinomycetes, plasmids, bacteriophages, transposons and clonation vectors. The node of INHRR is a collection formed approximately by 1500 fungi strains, mainly isolated from clinical and environmental samples. It had preserved more than 135 species and varieties of filamentous fungi representative of the genera *Absidia*, *Acremonium*, *Alternaria*, *Apophysomyces*, *Aspergillus*, *Aureobasidium*, *Beauveria*, *Chaetomium*, *Cladophialophora*, *Coccidioides*, *Colletotrichum*, *Conidiobolus*, *Curvularia*, *Cylindrocarpon*, *Dreschlera*, *Exophiala*, *Fonsecae*, *Fusarium*, *Histoplasma*, *Madurella*, *Mucor*, *Natrassia*, *Neotestudina*, *Nigrospora*, *Paecilomyces*, *Paracoccidioides*, *Phialophora*, *Phoma*, *Piedraia*, *Pseudoallescheria*, *Pyrenochaeta*, *Rhinochadiella*, *Rhizopus*, *Scedosporium*, *Scopulariopsis*, *Scytalidium*, *Sporothrix* and *Syncephalastrum* among others, and a collection of yeasts mainly represented by the genera *Candida* and *Cryptococcus*. This node is the national reference center in mycological diagnostic, guarantees the preservation of autochthonous strains and offers support in investigation to the universities and postgraduate degrees in mycology. The CVCM system is a decentralized organizational model that locally assures the ex situ preservation of the microbial diversity in the region, and it has been taken as an organization model for the creation of the national system of culture collections.

Key words: culture collections, fungi, fungi preservation