

Recent Activities of the Japan Society for Culture Collections (JSCC)

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Abstract:

The Japan Society for Culture Collections (JSCC) is a scientific society consisting of 23 public or private microbial culture collections in Japan (http://www.jsc-home.jp/list_of_jsc_member_collection.html), as well as more than 200 individual members. JSCC member collections are totally holding ca. 382,000 strains of various microorganisms including 46,600 fungal, 38,300 yeast, 190,700 bacterial, 9,100 actinomycetous, and 1,700 micro-algal, 650 archaea strains as of the end of March, 2010. They distributed more than 255,900 strains to users not only in Japan but to foreign countries. More than 3,500 microbial resources have been deposited to the JSCC member collections in 2009 fiscal year. JSCC compiled catalogue data of 7 major member collections to construct an integrated strain database and its search system (http://www.jsc-home.jp/jsc_strain_database.html), which contains 58,500 accessions belonging to ca. 10,000 species of various microorganisms, and the database is scheduled to include catalogue data of 3 other member collections in this year. Annual meetings of JSCC, in which achievements for researches on microbial resources are presented, are important for culture collections to exchange information. For example, "Quality control and re-identification of NBRC fungal strains based on DNA sequencing", "Utility of *hsp60* gene for taxonomy of anaerobic gram negative bacilli", "Plant pathogenic fungi and others newly deposited to the NIAS Genebank in 2009", "Phylogenetic analysis of *Bacillus cereus* group based on the *dnaJ* gene for species identification", "Collaborative studies on lactobacilli originated from fermented foods in Thailand", "Re-identification of algal strains preserved in NIES • *EChlamydomonas* • E and "Problems in microbial systematics and roles of culture collections arising from whole genome and polytypically analyzed strains" were reported in the latest JSCC annual meeting. The society publishes a journal, "Microbiology and Culture Collection" every half year, with contents of original papers, reviews and also unique expository series e.g., "Agricultural microbes" and "Preservation techniques for microbial resources". JSCC represents the activities of culture collections in Japan to make the science and industry communities be aware of the importance of the microbial resource centers as an infrastructure of biotechnology and life sciences.

Key words: culture collection, network, preservation, distribution, journal