

Micoteca da Universidade do Minho (MUM)

Isabel M. Santos and Nelson Lima

Centro de Engenharia Biológica - IBQF, Universidade do Minho, 4700 Braga, Portugal

Key words: *Culture of fungi; Deposit facilities; Contract research; Training courses*

The need to obtain fungal strains with specific degrading capabilities as well as the continuing experimental activity in mycology, in connection to environment preservation and biodiversity issues, consolidated the idea that in Portugal one feels the need to organise a fungi culture collection with the double purpose of keeping and supplying strains and act as a centre for research, information and training.

The collection kept in the Department of Biological Engineering at the University of Minho includes over 160 identified species and more than 50 mutant and transformant strains.

Identification and preservation services are basically the result from research activities and specialized services for the Industry with emphasis on biodeterioration and biodegradation. More specifically a project on the deterioration of paint films is being carried out in cooperation with the International Mycological Institute, Surrey, UK.

The available specialized books include around 300 titles of which 100 are monographys.

A manual on food-borne fungi was prepared to support the advanced course on the same subject, which took place in Dec. 97.

A database on the collection is also being built which will allow the publication of the corresponding catalogue.

Acknowledgements

Isabel Santos was supported by grant BD/9120/96, from PRAXIS XXI.