

Guidelines for Submitting Your Culture Collections

The Fungal Kingdom, Fall 2006

The overall objective of the culture collection was to give you some experience with trying to obtain pure cultures of fungi and to work with them. Given all the other activities that we crammed into the quarter, the level of support we were able to give you on your collections was limited. Looking through the culture plates down in 064, it is evident that there is quite a range in what you have accomplished with your cultures.

The most important aspect of the culture collection is that you attempted to isolate some fungi. I would like you to submit your collections in whatever stage they are in. Your culture collection should contain a summary of your goals and process, notes for each culture, and your cultures. The evaluation of your collection will rely on all three parts, but will weigh your process as reflected in the written parts more heavily than the actual results. Use the guidelines below to prepare your collection for submission.

Written summary of goals and process

This should be typed, 12 pt Times New Roman, 1 inch margins, no more than two pages single spaced. Be sure to include your name at the top of the page.

- Begin with a short paragraph outlining the theme or focus of your collection.
- Your second paragraph should be a short summary of your methods.
- The remaining text should be a summary of your results/experience. Were you successful? How did you know that you had a pure culture of what you were trying to isolate? If you had difficulties, what were they and how might you overcome them if you were to attempt this process again?

Culture notes

This should be a one-page (typed) with the collection data for every culture that you are submitting. Include the following information in a clear and organized fashion. Be sure to include your name at the top of the page.

- Your identification number for the culture (whatever is written on the tube that uniquely identifies this culture)
- Genus and species (if known), where you collected it, date collected, substrate it was growing on in nature, type of isolation (spores, tissue, ground up thallus, wood core)

Culture plates or tubes

- Make sure that all cultures—whether on plates or slants—have a unique identifier that corresponds to your culture notes, date of transfer, your name, Genus & species. Use a Sharpie or labels.
- If you have isolated pure cultures and have transferred them into slant tubes, submit the slants.
- Don't put any cultures into slants if you're not confident that the culture is clean and what you attempted to isolate.
- If your cultures are still on plates, tape the plates shut and submit them in a Ziploc bag that is clearly marked with your name.

You can put your tubes in zip-loc bags or 1 qt yogurt containers. The tubes we have fit into 1 qt Nancy's yogurt containers. I will be keeping these slants, so if you want to keep copies of your cultures for your own use, make at least three copies (1 to submit, 2 for your own use). Clearly label your container with your name.