

Rev. Inst. Med. trop. S. Paulo
45(3):152, May-June, 2003

BOOK REVIEW*

St-GERMAIN, Guy & SUMMERBELL, Richard – Identifying filamentous fungi. A clinical laboratory handbook. Belmont, Star Publishing. 314p. illus. ISBN 0-89863-177-7

Medical mycology is a rapidly expanding discipline, increasing in importance and complexity. The high frequencies of some mycotic diseases, such as dermatophytoses, and the increasing number of serious mycoses of the immunocompromised patient, make it ever more important for people in biomedical laboratories to develop and maintain expertise in mycology.

Identifying filamentous fungi. A clinical laboratory handbook by Guy St-Germain and Richard Summerbell aids in the identification of filamentous fungi, a group of organisms mainly recognized through the microscopic examination of structures. For this reason, the authors provide a wealth of illustrations, including drawings, photomicrographs, and color photographs for each of the genera and species described in the book.

Contents include: Classification and key features; Laboratory Safety; Dichotomous identification key; Illustrated identification key; Descriptions of over 100 fungal genera and species important in the clinical laboratory; Comprehensive laboratory methods; Culture media and stains; Glossary of technical terms; Bibliography and Index.

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*This book is available at the Library of the Instituto de Medicina Tropical de São Paulo