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FUNGI FROM DRINKING WATER DISTRIBUTION NETWORKS.

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Microbial pathogens in drinking water have increasingly become important during the last decades. However, little is known about the pathogenic potential of different fungal species in potable water supply systems. Fungi are involved in the production of tastes and odours in water and there are potential health problems from mycotoxins. An EU project is ongoing in Micoteca da Universidade do Minho in order to control the mycological quality of tap water. The methods for the determination of filamentous fungi in Braga tap water were filtering, swabbing and baiting. The specific agars tap water, half strength corn meal, neopeptone glucose rose bengal tetracycline and oomycete selective for the enumeration of CFU were used. Overall, 17 filtering, five swabbing (direct plating and pour plating), and three baiting samples were taken during eight months. *Penicillium* was the most frequent genus following by *Rhizopus* and *Cladosporium*. The black yeasts group (*Exophiala* included) was also found. To date, 112 filamentous fungi have been isolated which are distributed as follows:

Taxa	%
<i>Penicillium</i> sp.	47.3
<i>Rhizopus</i> sp.	8.9
<i>Cladosporium</i> sp.	6.3
<i>Alternaria</i> sp.	0.9
<i>Chaetomium</i> sp.	0.9
<i>Phialophora</i> sp.	0.9
Black yeasts	10.7
<i>Mycelia sterilia</i>	8.0
Not identified	16.1

The penicillia may become important as fungal indicator in water distribution network biofilms. The neopeptone glucose rose bengal tetracycline agar provides the best fungal recovery results when compared to the other media.

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