

Mycotoxins and Related Mold Species

Reviewed by Justin Joe, PhD, CIH, CSP, CPE and Zackary Zhao

Welcome to our comprehensive compilation of mycotoxins and their corresponding mold species, aimed at identifying potential sources and health implications. This table provides valuable insights into the origins and impacts of various mycotoxins, making it an invaluable resource for our clients, healthcare professionals, and those interested in understanding these issues. Explore this collection of data to enhance your knowledge of mycotoxins and their relationship with mold species, impacting both human health and the environment.

Mycotoxin	Mold Species Detected in ERMI 36 Species	Leading Source from Building Material	Leading Source from Food	Health Concerns
Ochratoxin A	Aspergillus ochraceus, niger; Eurotium (Asp.) Amstelodami; Penicillium glabrum	Damp building materials (wood and walls) that may have experienced water damage	Dried foods such as dried fish, various dried beans, pulses (legumes), nuts, oilseeds, coffee. Can be prevalent in spices, onions, cereal ingredients (rice, barley, wheat, maize)	Immunosuppression, BEN (Balkan endemic nephropathy), Lung disease
Aflatoxins	Aspergillus flavus, oryzae, parasiticus; Eurotium (Asp.) Amstelodami	Damp walls, wallpaper, floor and carpet dust, tarred wooden flooring, humidifiers, HVAC, cotton fabrics, paintings	Agricultural crops such as maize (corn), peanuts, cottonseed, and tree nuts.	Liver pathology and cancer, immune toxicity, neurotoxicity
Trichothecenes (Includes Satratoxin)	Stachybotrys chartarum	Water-damaged building materials with high cellulose content, including fiberboard, gypsum board, wallpaper, canvas, and paper	Corn, cereal grains	Respiratory bleeding, protein synthesis inhibition, neurotoxicity, cytotoxicity, immune toxicity

Gliotoxin	Trichoderma viride; Aspergillus fumigatus, terres, flavus, niger	Soil, compost, water-saturated wood items, cellulose-rich materials such as gypsum walls, wallpapers, air-conditioning filters, and carpet and mattress dust	Vegetables	Immune toxicity, immune suppression, neurotoxicity
Zearalenone	Fusarium graminearum, verticillioides	Water-damaged building materials	Cereal ingredients, such as wheat, barley, maize, sorghum, rye, rice, corn silage, sesame seed, hay, flour, malt, soybeans, beer, corn oil, pasta	Reproductive system diseases (prostate, cervical, or breast cancer)
Chaetomium; Chaetoglobosin A and C	Chaetomium globosum	Paper and cellulose-containing material, including wet drywall, wallpaper, carpets, window frames, baseboards	High-fiber food ingredients, including whole-grain bread, pasta, quinoa, and brown rice	Cytotoxicity, Cell division
Patulin	Penicillium crustosum, glabrum; Aspergillus penicillioides; Eurotium (Asp.) Amstelodami; Paecilomyces variotii	Water damaged carpet, wallpaper, floor, mattress, and insulation	Apples and apple products, pears, apricots, peaches, grapes, primarily in rotten regions- Also common in seeds and nuts	Immune toxicity, cytotoxic, tremors
Penitrem A	Penicillium crustosum, glabrum	N/A	Pome fruits (apples, pears, and quince), cheese, nuts, seeds	Tremors, ataxia, seizures
Cyclopiazonic acid	Penicillium chrysogenum	Floor dust, mattress dust, wood, wall paper, paint, gypsum (as in wall board) artwork, optical lenses	Fruits, vegetables, cereal grains, cured meat, margarine, cheese, and dairy products	In animals (rats, dogs, pigs, and chickens): anorexia, diarrhea, yrexia, dehydration, weight loss, ataxia, immobility
Rubratoxin B	Penicillium purpurogenum	Plants, optical lenses, vinyl wall covering, cotton yarn, dextrin paste	Strawberries, walnut kernels	Liver and spleen damage, teratogenic and reproductive effects

Fumagillin	<i>Aspergillus fumigatus</i>	House dust, garbage, compost, potted plants, humidifiers, and HVAC	Fruits, beans, vegetables, and vegetables	Lung disease, neurotoxicity, tremors, immune toxicity
Alternariol and alternariol monomethyl ether	<i>Alternaria alternata</i>	Damp building materials, including textiles, canvas, cardboard and paper, electric cables, polyurethane	Fruits, vegetables, cereals, and grain	Vomiting, erythema, convulsions, gastrointestinal hemorrhage
Citrinin	<i>Aspergillus restrictus</i> , penicillioides; <i>Penicillium verrucosum</i>	House dust, furniture, carpets, clothing	Stored grains (beans, fruit, olives, herbs, spices)	Liver deterioration, carcinogenic, embryotoxic
Sterigmatocystin	<i>Aspergillus versicolor</i> ; <i>Eurotium (Asp.) Amstelodami</i>	Damp building materials, including wallboards, insulation, textiles, ceiling tiles, and manufactured wood	Cocoa, coffee beans, powdered spices, maize, date fruits, grains, peanut, vegetables	Live pathology and cancer
Mycophenolic Acid	<i>Penicillium brevicompactum</i>	Water damaged carpet, wallpaper, floor, mattress, and insulation	Apples, grapes, mushrooms, cassava, potatoes, and ginger	Cyotoxic, mutagen
Fumonisin	<i>Fusarium verticillioides</i>	Water-damaged building materials	Corn, corn by-products, cereal, wheat, barley, oat, sorghum	CNS birth defects
Unknown	<i>Wallemia sebi</i>	Textiles, rotting paper, floor dust, mattress dust, soil, hay	Rock salt, bacon, salted foods, jam, jellies, fruits	Allergenic, causes respiratory problems and is known to colonize human lungs, bones, and skin

References

- “Aflatoxins - Cancer-Causing Substances.” *National Cancer Institute*, www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/causes-prevention/risk/substances/aflatoxins#:~:text=Aflatoxins%20are%20a%20family%20of,%20cottonseed%2C%20and%20tree%20nuts. Accessed 17 July 2023.
- Aleksic, Brankica, et al. “Aerosolization of Mycotoxins after Growth of Toxinogenic Fungi on Wallpaper.” *Applied and Environmental Microbiology*, vol. 83, no. 16, 2017, <https://doi.org/10.1128/aem.01001-17>.
- “Allergen Fact Sheets.” *Allergy Insider*, www.thermofisher.com/allergy/us/en/allergen-fact-sheets.html?allergen=penicillium-chrysogenum#:~:text=Penicillium%20chrysogenum%20can%20also%20develop,cheese%2C%20and%20other%20dairy%20products. Accessed 17 July 2023.
- Bianchini, A., and L.B. Bullerman. “Mycotoxins | Classification.” *Encyclopedia of Food Microbiology*, 2014, pp. 854–861, <https://doi.org/10.1016/b978-0-12-384730-0.00230-5>.
- Bui-Klimke, Travis R., and Felicia Wu. “Ochratoxin A and Human Health Risk: A Review of the Evidence.” *Critical Reviews in Food Science and Nutrition*, vol. 55, no. 13, 2014, pp. 1860–1869, <https://doi.org/10.1080/10408398.2012.724480>.
- Campbell, James, et al. “Detailed Description of ERMI Mold Species.” *Assured Bio Labs*, 3 Mar. 2008.
- “Chaetomium Mold in the Home.” *Mold Advisor*, www.mold-advisor.com/chaetomium.html. Accessed 17 July 2023.
- Den Hollander, Danica, et al. “Cytotoxic Effects of Alternariol, Alternariol Monomethyl-Ether, and Tenuazonic Acid and Their Relevant Combined Mixtures on Human Enterocytes and Hepatocytes.” *Frontiers in Microbiology*, vol. 13, 2022, <https://doi.org/10.3389/fmicb.2022.849243>.
- Domijan, A.-M., and M. Peraica. “Carcinogenic Mycotoxins.” *Comprehensive Toxicology*, 2018, pp. 154–167, <https://doi.org/10.1016/b978-0-12-801238-3.02223-6>.
- “Facts about Stachybotrys Chartarum.” *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*, 14 Nov. 2022, www.cdc.gov/mold/stachy.htm#:~:text=Stachybotrys%20chartarum%20is%20a%20greenish,is%20required%20for%20its%20growth.
- Fogle, Matthew R., et al. “Growth and Mycotoxin Production by Chaetomium Globosum.” *Mycopathologia*, vol. 164, no. 1, 2007, pp. 49–56, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11046-007-9023-x>.

- “From Aflatoxin to Zearalenone: Key Mycotoxins You Should Know – Fumonisin.” *Penn State Extension*, extension.psu.edu/from-aflatoxin-to-zearalenone-key-mycotoxins-you-should-know-fumonisin#:~:text=Fumonisin%20are%20a%20group%20of,barley%2C%20oat%2C%20and%20sorghum. Accessed 20 July 2023.
- “From Aflatoxin to Zearalenone: Key Mycotoxins You Should Know – Fumonisin.” *Penn State Extension*, extension.psu.edu/from-aflatoxin-to-zearalenone-key-mycotoxins-you-should-know-fumonisin#:~:text=Fumonisin%20are%20a%20group%20of,barley%2C%20oat%2C%20and%20sorghum. Accessed 20 July 2023.
- Gupta, Ramesh C., et al. “Zearalenone.” *Veterinary Toxicology*, 2018, pp. 1055–1063, <https://doi.org/10.1016/b978-0-12-811410-0.00076-3>.
- Guruceaga, Xabier, et al. “Fumagillin, a Mycotoxin of *Aspergillus Fumigatus*: Biosynthesis, Biological Activities, Detection, and Applications.” *Toxins*, vol. 12, no. 1, 2019, p. 7, <https://doi.org/10.3390/toxins12010007>.
- Hocking, A.D. “*Aspergillus* and Related Teleomorphs.” *Food Spoilage Microorganisms*, 2006, pp. 451–487, <https://doi.org/10.1533/9781845691417.4.451>.
- Ichihara, Akitami, and Hideaki Oikawa. “The Diels–Alder Reaction in Biosynthesis of Polyketide Phytotoxins.” *Comprehensive Natural Products Chemistry*, 1999, pp. 367–408, <https://doi.org/10.1016/b978-0-08-091283-7.00015-1>.
- Kamle, Madhu, et al. “Citrinin Mycotoxin Contamination in Food and Feed: Impact on Agriculture, Human Health, and Detection and Management Strategies.” *Toxins*, vol. 14, no. 2, 2022, p. 85, <https://doi.org/10.3390/toxins14020085>.
- Kung’u, Dr Jackson. “Indoor Molds That Produce Known Mycotoxins on Building Materials.” *Mold Testing and Bacteria Testing*, 17 July 2012, www.moldbacteria.com/mold/indoor-molds-that-produce-known-mycotoxins-on-building-materials.html.
- LeDoux, M.S. “Essential Tremor: Animal Models.” *Encyclopedia of Movement Disorders*, 2010, pp. 452–456, <https://doi.org/10.1016/b978-0-12-374105-9.00220-3>.
- Mahato, Dipendra Kumar, et al. “Trichothecenes in Food and Feed: Occurrence, Impact on Human Health and Their Detection and Management Strategies.” *Toxicon*, vol. 208, 2022, pp. 62–77, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.toxicon.2022.01.011>.
- “Mold Identification, Species & Resources Library by Mr Natural®.” *Mold Identification, Species & Resources Library by Mr Natural®*, mrnatural.ca/applications/mold-species-library/. Accessed 17 July 2023.

- Moretti, A., and S. Sarrocco. “Fungi.” *Encyclopedia of Food and Health*, 2016, pp. 162–168, <https://doi.org/10.1016/b978-0-12-384947-2.00341-x>.
- Natori, Shinsaku, et al. “Production of Rubratoxin B by *Penicillium Purpurogenum* Stoll.” *Applied Microbiology*, vol. 19, no. 4, 1970, pp. 613–617, <https://doi.org/10.1128/am.19.4.613-617.1970>.
- Natori, Shinsaku, et al. “Production of Rubratoxin B by *Penicillium Purpurogenum* Stoll.” *Applied Microbiology*, vol. 19, no. 4, 1970, pp. 613–617, <https://doi.org/10.1128/am.19.4.613-617.1970>.
- Nguyen, Thi Thuong, et al. “Characterization of *Paecilomyces Variotii* and *Talaromyces Amestolkiae* in Korea Based on the Morphological Characteristics and Multigene Phylogenetic Analyses.” *Mycobiology*, vol. 44, no. 4, 2016, pp. 248–259, <https://doi.org/10.5941/myco.2016.44.4.248>.
- Paterson, R., and Nelson Lima. “Filamentous Fungal Human Pathogens from Food Emphasising *Aspergillus*, *Fusarium* and *Mucor*.” *Microorganisms*, vol. 5, no. 3, 2017, p. 44, <https://doi.org/10.3390/microorganisms5030044>.
- “*Penicillium Glabrum*.” *Mycocosm*, mycocosm.jgi.doe.gov/Peng11/Peng11.home.html. Accessed 19 July 2023.
- Pitt, J.I. “*Penicillium* and Related Genera.” *Food Spoilage Microorganisms*, 2006, pp. 437–450, <https://doi.org/10.1533/9781845691417.4.437>.
- Pivotcreative. “You Have Been Diagnosed with Mycotoxin Illness, Now What?: Indoor Doctor What Is Mycotoxin Illness?” *Indoor Doctor*, 28 June 2023, www.indoordoctor.com/blog/diagnosed-mycotoxin-illness/.
- Rogowska, A., et al. “Zearalenone and Its Metabolites: Effect on Human Health, Metabolism and Neutralisation Methods.” *Toxicon*, vol. 162, 2019, pp. 46–56, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.toxicon.2019.03.004>.
- Ropejko, Karolina, and Magdalena Twarużek. “Zearalenone and Its Metabolites—General Overview, Occurrence, and Toxicity.” *Toxins*, vol. 13, no. 1, 2021, p. 35, <https://doi.org/10.3390/toxins13010035>.
- Soares, Célia, et al. “Mycotoxin Production by *Aspergillus Niger* Aggregate Strains Isolated from Harvested Maize in Three Portuguese Regions.” *Revista Iberoamericana de Micología*, vol. 30, no. 1, 2013, pp. 9–13, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.riam.2012.05.002>.

Thrasher, Jack D, and Sandra Crawley. “The Biocontaminants and Complexity of Damp Indoor Spaces: More than What Meets the Eyes.” *Toxicology and Industrial Health*, vol. 25, no. 9–10, 2009, pp. 583–615, <https://doi.org/10.1177/0748233709348386>.

“Trichoderma - Species, Allergy & Proper Treatment: Mold Busters.” *Mold Library*, 31 May 2022, library.bustmold.com/trichoderma/.

Tuomi, Tapani, et al. “Mycotoxins in Crude Building Materials from Water-Damaged Buildings.” *Applied and Environmental Microbiology*, vol. 66, no. 5, 2000, pp. 1899–1904, <https://doi.org/10.1128/aem.66.5.1899-1904.2000>.

Vico, I., et al. “First Report of *Penicillium Crustosum* Causing Blue Mold on Stored Apple Fruit in Serbia.” *Plant Disease*, vol. 98, no. 10, 2014, pp. 1430–1430, <https://doi.org/10.1094/pdis-02-14-0179-pdn>.

Viegas, Carla, et al. “Sterigmatocystin in Foodstuffs and Feed: Aspects to Consider.” *Mycology*, vol. 11, no. 2, 2018, pp. 91–104, <https://doi.org/10.1080/21501203.2018.1492980>.

Wright, Sandra AI. “Patulin in Food.” *Current Opinion in Food Science*, vol. 5, 2015, pp. 105–109, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cofs.2015.10.003>.

Zargar, Seema, and Tanveer A. Wani. “Food Toxicity of Mycotoxin Citrinin and Molecular Mechanisms of Its Potential Toxicity Effects through the Implicated Targets Predicted by Computer-Aided Multidimensional Data Analysis.” *Life*, vol. 13, no. 4, 2023, p. 880, <https://doi.org/10.3390/life13040880>.