

Deuteromycota

- Deuteromycota was a formal phylum of kingdom Fungi. But, scientists have not yet observed Deuteromycota's sexual reproductive cycle, one of the basis of the taxonomy of kingdom Fungi. Now, the term is only used informally to denote the species of fungi that reproduce asexually of the fungal phyla Ascomycota and Basidiomycota.
- They are characterized by the production of septate mycelium and a sexual life cycle that is either unknown or absent.
- They reproduce asexually by means of **conidia** (sing. = conidium). A conidium is an asexual spore that is not produced in a sporangium

There are four orders in phylum Deuteromycota:

- 1- Moniliales : conidia and conidiophores are produced in mycelium



Conidiophores of *Ulocladium tenuis* are borne in chains



Conidia of *Alternaria*

- 2-Sphaeropsidales Here, the conidia and conidiophores produced in pycnidia (sing. = picnidium) A **pycnidia** is a fruiting body of variable shape and size in which conidia and conidiosphere are borne.

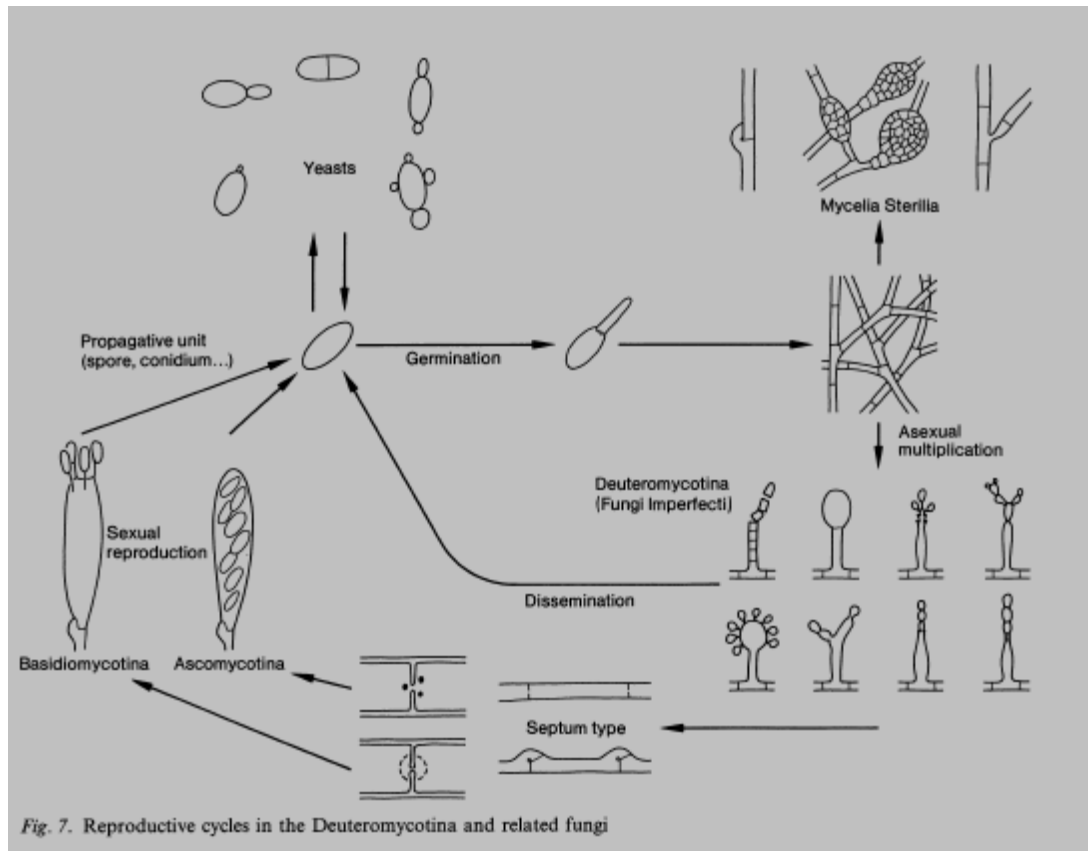
- 3-Melanconiales Fungi have acervuli (sing.=acervulus), a plate-like stroma on which conidia and conidiophores are borne

- 4-Mycelia Sterlia is sterile, conidia not produced.

They have sclerotia (sing.= sclerotium). A sclerotium is a rounded structure composed of mass of hyphae, which is

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normally sterile. The sclerotia serves as a "resistant" stage which may give rise to mycelium, fruitbodies or stromata.



Reproductive cycles in the deutromycota and related fungi