

TAXONOMIC DOSSIER / CLASS 11 BIOLOGY



**STATUS: SEXUAL
STAGE UNKNOWN**

Deuteromycetes

The 'Imperfect' Fungi

Why are they called 'Imperfect'?

✓ What is Known

Only the asexual or vegetative phases of these fungi have been discovered and documented.

⚠ What is Missing

The perfect (sexual) stages are entirely unknown or yet to be discovered.

The Reclassification Protocol

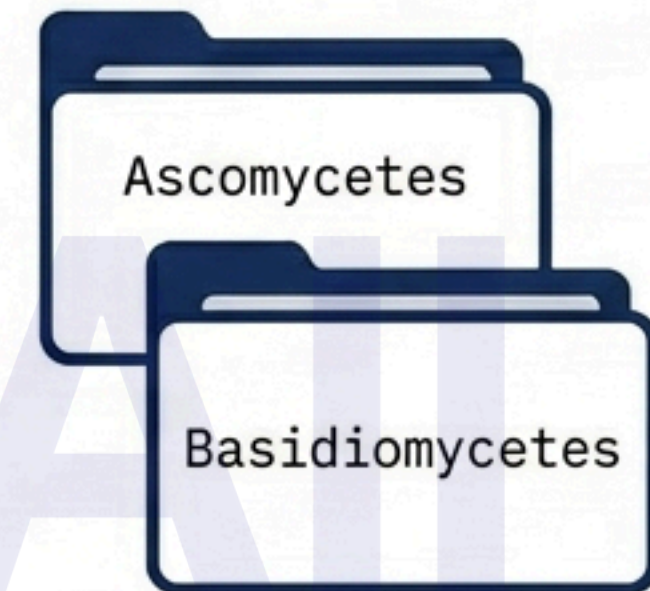


Temporary Placement

The newly discovered asexual/vegetative stage is placed here (often given a specific scientific name).



The 'perfect' sexual stage is eventually observed and genetically linked to the asexual stage.



Permanent Relocation

The fungus is correctly identified and moved out of Deuteromycetes into its permanent taxonomic home.



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Key Highlights

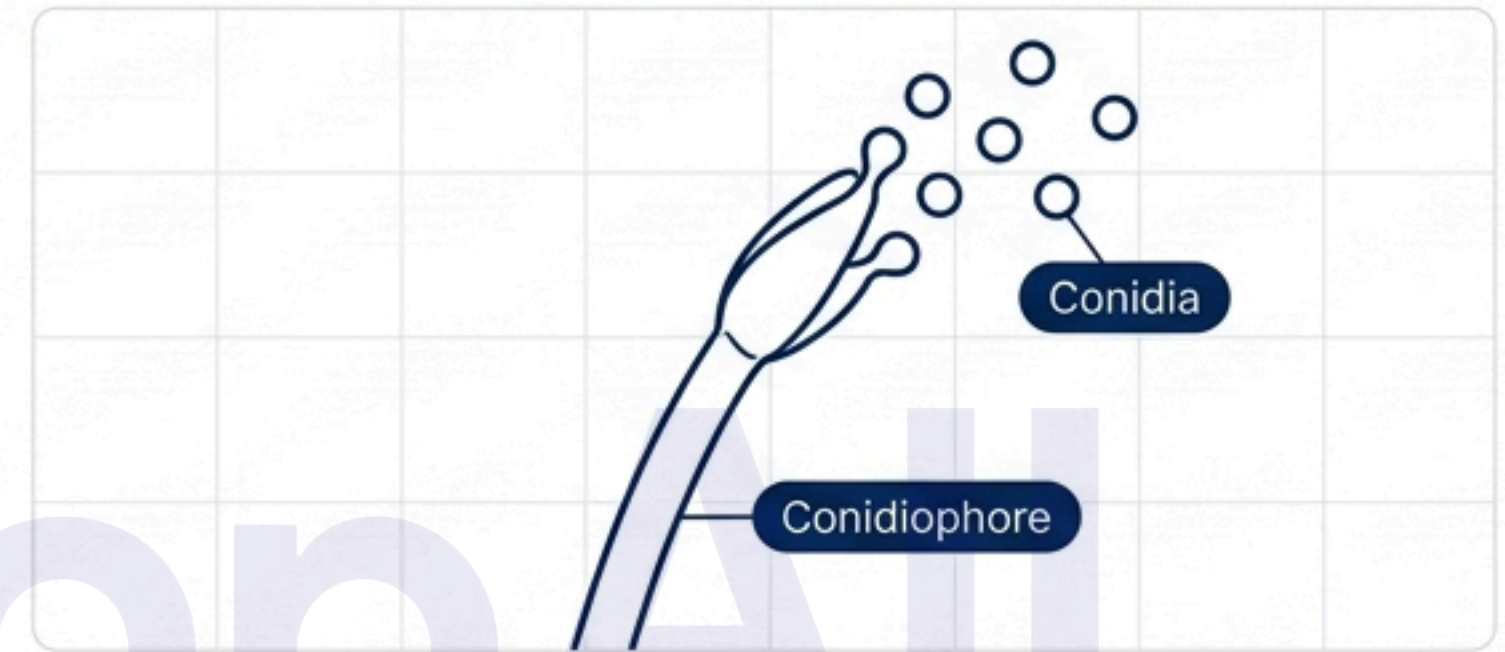
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Biological Characteristics

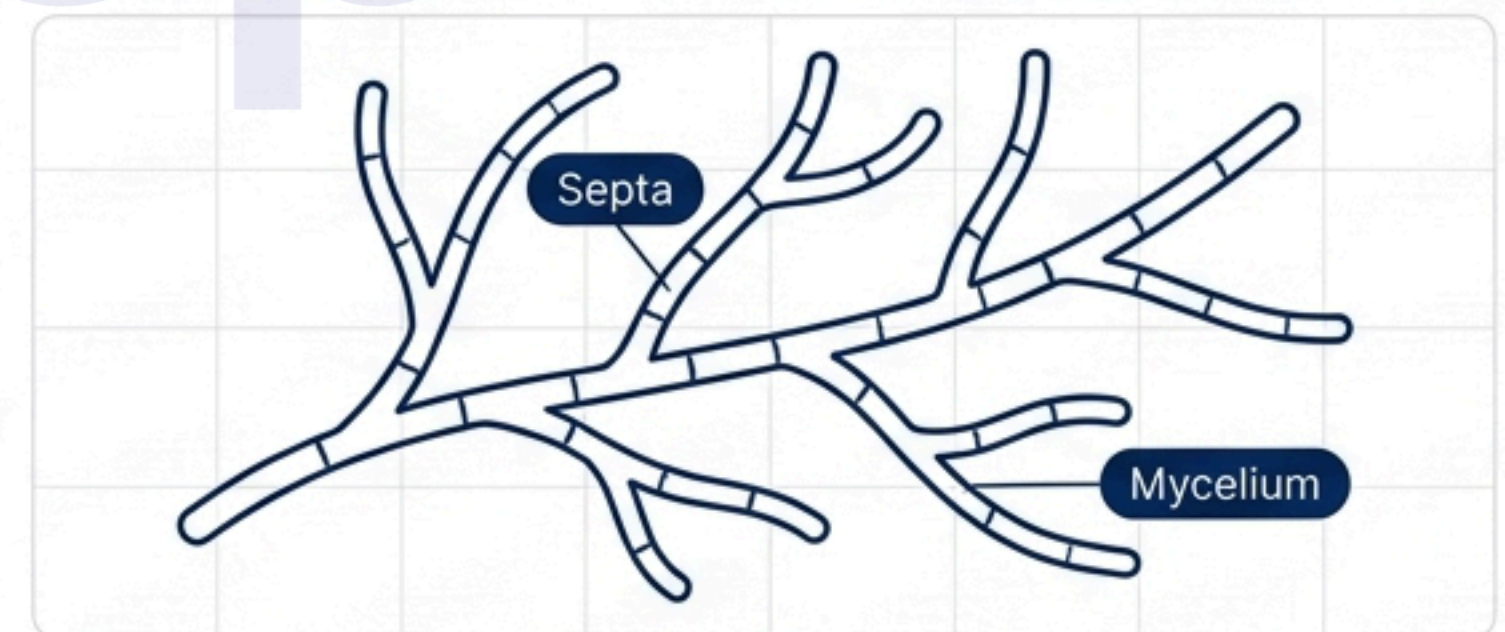
Reproduction

Reproduces only by asexual spores.
These spores are exclusively known as **CONIDIA**.



Mycelium Structure

The fungal body is **SEPTATE** (possesses internal cross-walls) and heavily **BRANCHED**.



Ecological Roles

Saprophytes

Organisms that sustain themselves by living on dead organic matter.

Parasites

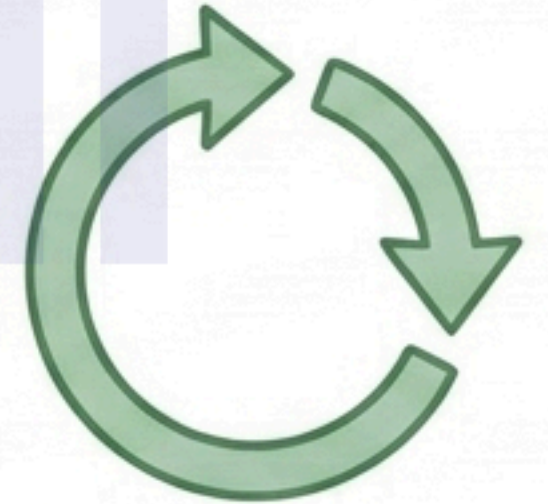
Organisms that live on or inside a host organism, causing harm.

KEY TAKEAWAY

Decomposers of Litter

The vast majority of Deuteromycetes fall into this category.

They play a highly critical role in mineral cycling within natural ecosystems.



Identified Members (The Case Files)



Alternaria

Colletotrichum

Trichoderma

Deuteromycetes at a Glance

- ✓ **Identity:** "Imperfect fungi" (sexual phase currently unknown).
- ✓ **Reproduction:** By asexual spores only (conidia).
- ✓ **Mycelium:** Septate and branched.
- ✓ **Ecology:** Primarily litter decomposers heavily involved in mineral cycling.
- ✓ **Examples:** *Alternaria*, *Colletotrichum*, *Trichoderma*.
- ✓ **Fate:** Temporarily held, eventually moved to Ascomycetes or Basidiomycetes upon discovery of a sexual stage.



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