

# BCCM/IHEM: a history of Belgian culture collections dedicated to medical mycology



<p><b>1985</b> First catalogue with 660 strains</p> <p>Ministry of Public Health and Family INSTITUTE OF HYGIENE AND EPIDEMIOLOGY</p> <p>catalogue of the fungi culture collection.</p>	<p><b>1989</b> Second catalogue with a selection of 2500 strains from 6000 publicly available isolates</p> <p>BCCM IHEM INSTITUTE OF HYGIENE AND EPIDEMIOLOGY</p> <p>LIST OF CULTURES 1989 FUNGI-YEASTS</p>	<p><b>1992</b> Third catalogue with a selection of 3500 strains from 7000 publicly available isolates</p> <p>BCCM IHEM INSTITUTE OF HYGIENE AND EPIDEMIOLOGY</p> <p>FUNGI-YEASTS</p>	<p><b>1999</b> Publication of the fourth catalogue, the last printed version</p> <p>BCCM IHEM INSTITUTE OF HYGIENE AND EPIDEMIOLOGY</p> <p>CATALOGUE 1999</p>	<p><b>2000</b> The catalogue is published online Introduction of DNA sequencing</p>	<p><b>2014</b> Publication of the first genome sequence of a IHEM strain (IHEM14462)</p>	<p><b>2020</b> The public collection comprises about 16.000 strains representing more than 1.500 species</p>
---	---	--	---	---	--	--

Curators	Managers
1982 – 1999 N. Nolard/H. Beguin	2004 L. Taverne
1999 – 2005 F. Symoens	2005 F. Symoens
2005 – 2007 D. Swinne	2006 P.A. Fonteyne
2007 – 2009 P. Van Rooij	2006 – 2010 M. Detandt
2009 – 2014 C. Planard	2010 – 2020 M. Hendrickx
From 2014 D. Stubbe	From 2020 D. Stubbe

## BCCMIHEMBCCMIHEMBCCMIHEMBCCMIHEMBCCMIHEMBCCMIHEMBCCMIHEMBCCMIHEMBCCMIHEM

<p><b>1980</b> Creation of the IHEM collection, following the host institute name of that time: Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology, M standing for Mycology</p>	<p><b>1987</b> Integration in the BCCM consortium</p>	<p><b>1990</b> First computer database, following MINE project</p>	<p><b>1992</b> Status of International Depository Authority is acquired (Budapest Treaty)</p>	<p><b>2004</b> Accreditation of the VIP and bacteriological controls (ISO 17025)</p>	<p><b>2010</b> Introduction of MALDI-TOF MS</p>	<p><b>2017</b> Online access of the MALDI-TOF MS reference database</p>
--	---	--	---	--	---	---

**Created by Raymond Vanbreuseghem (1909-1993)**

**The RV collection/ Vanbreuseghem Mycotheque**

Initiated in 1947 as he was working at the Parasitology Institute of the Faculty of Medicine of Paris (Maurice Langeron laboratory)

Integrated in 1997 in the BCCM/IHEM collection. More than 4000 RV strains are available in the IHEM public catalogue. The oldest is a *Microsporium audouini* isolated by Emile Rivalier in 1947

More than 12000 strains from all over the world including:

- About 3400 dermatophytes, half of them from Africa
- The world largest collection of *Cryptococcus neoformans* (more than 2500 strains)

From 1961, the RV collection continued to develop at the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp

Initiated around 1965 by Janssen Pharmaceutica

Officially recognized by their «B» acronym, strains were collected until 1991

**The Janssen collection**

**JANSSEN RESEARCH FOUNDATION**

Integrated in 2000 in the BCCM/IHEM collection. More than 500 Janssen strains are available in the IHEM public catalogue. The oldest is a *Candida albicans* isolated in 1968.

[www.bccm.belspo.be](http://www.bccm.belspo.be)

