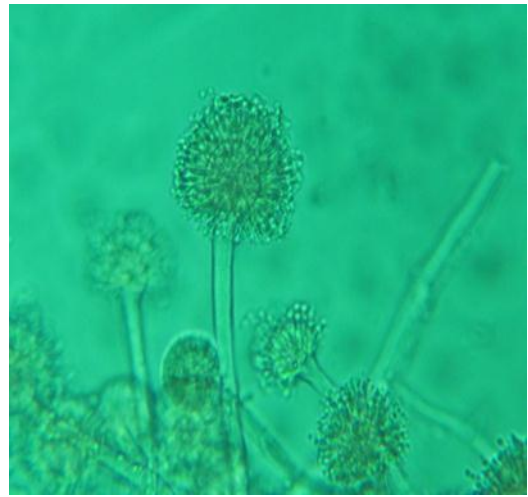


Mycology: Is the science of studying a group of microorganisms known as fungi (Myco= fungi, logy= science). Fungi (molds) are a group of microorganisms living in nature, heterotrophic and common in different habitats (soil, water, and air). Fungal cell structures are differ from bacteria, plants and animals in some features (Table 1).



FUNGAL CELL STRUCTURE

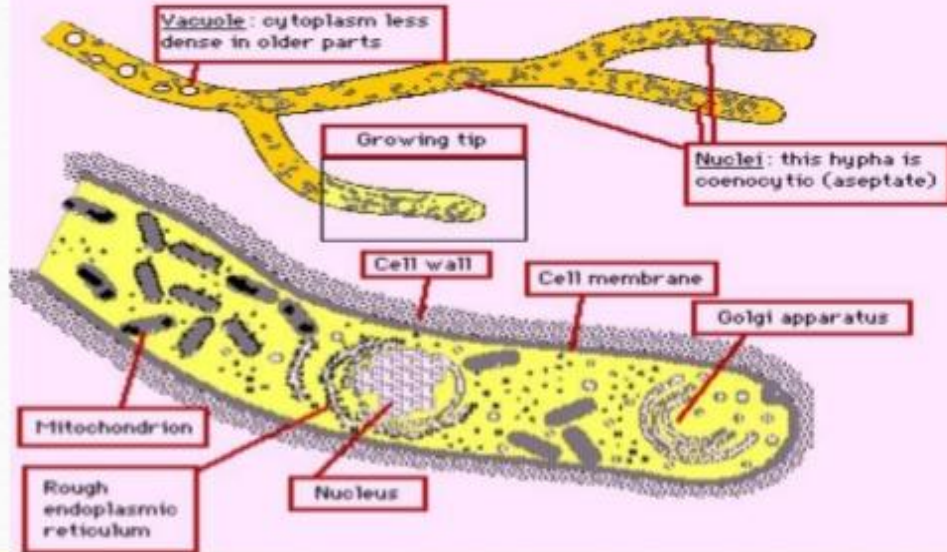


Table 1. Differences between the fungal cell structures and other organisms

Cell structures	Bacteria	Fungi	Plants	Animals
Cell wall	+	+	+	-
Nucleus (Eukaryote)	-	+	+	+
Ribosomes	+	+	+	+
Mitochondria	-	+	+	+
Endoplasmic Reticulum	-	+	+	+
Golgi bodies	-	+	+	+
Plastids	-	-	+	-
Lomasomes	-	+	-	-

Fungal characteristics:

1. Fungi are heterotrophic with no chlorophyll
2. Hyphae are the main body structure
3. Hyphal cell-wall composed of chitin, glucan or cellulose
4. Eukaryotic cells (nuclei)
5. Reproduction by asexual and sexual methods
6. Spores are the main units of reproduction
7. Fungi have different modes of nutrition
8. Fungi play important roles in environment.