

Wood decay fungi now faster detectable

Biotype Diagnostic GmbH develops innovative chip technology for analysing dry rot fungi



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A new process for analysing wood decay fungi in buildings has been launched now. The German company Biotype Diagnostic GmbH has developed a biochip testing system for determining the 27 main types of dry rot fungi. This system can even analyse mixed samples consisting of multiple fungi within just a few hours in one single approach.

"This DNA chip technology gives homeowners, surveyors and monument conservators an even more accurate picture of whether their buildings are affected by dry rot or not," says Dr. Wilhelm Zörgiebel, Executive Director of Biotype Diagnostic GmbH. "In the past, building surveyors had to wait several days or even weeks for the results of an analysis." If traces of fungal DNA are found in the sample, the Mycotype® Basidio^{QS} reduces this waiting time to just a few hours.

The Mycotype® Basidio^{QS} technology was developed in cooperation with the Institut für Holztechnologie Dresden gemeinnützige GmbH (IHD). The mycological testing laboratory already uses this DIN EN ISO 9001:2005 accredited process in its routine diagnostics. Dr. Wolfram Scheiding, Head of Biology/Wood Preservation at IHD: "The high demand for analyses with the Mycotype® Basidio^{QS} diagnostic chip shows that this fast determination method is accepted by building surveyors." The IHD is the first lab in the world to offer fungal analysis using the new process. Other analysis labs will be following soon.

Mycotype® Basidio^{QS} works by amplifying minimal quantities of fungal DNA using the polymerase chain reaction (PCR). The identification of each individual fungus is then performed by rapid and sensitive biochip analysis by means of fluorescent dye detection.

Biotype Diagnostic GmbH is a research biotech company that has been developing, producing and marketing molecular biological products for forensics, human and veterinary medicine and for analytical purposes since 1999.

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