

Cryptococcus gattii, Strain R265

Catalog No. NR-50184

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Contributor and Manufacturer:

Alexander Idnurm, Associate Professor, School of Biological Sciences, The University of Missouri-Kansas City, Kansas City, Missouri, USA

Product Description:

Classification: *Filobasidiaceae, Cryptococcus*

Species: *Cryptococcus gattii*

Strain: R265

Original Source: *Cryptococcus gattii* (*C. gattii*), strain R265 was isolated from a human on Vancouver Island, Canada during the outbreak that began in the late 1990's.¹⁻⁴

Comment: *C. gattii*, strain R265, was obtained from the laboratory of J. Heitman at Duke University Medical Center as part of the Broad Fungal Genome Initiative ([Broad Institute](#)) and characterized as virulent in mice and the greater wax moth, *Galleria mellonella*.¹ Strain R265 is a wild type, MAT α, strain and is one of two strains utilized to produce a congeneric pair.^{1,2} Intermediate progeny, the final congeneric pair, and various mutant strains are available from BEI Resources [Table 1 (below) NR-50186 to NR-50201]. The complete genome sequence of *C. gattii*, strain R265 is available (GenBank: [AAFP00000000](#)).

The *Cryptococcus* species complex is comprised of four distinct lineages, VGI to VGIV, which are currently classified as two species, *C. neoformans* and *C. gattii*. These species are best recognized as the agents of cryptococcosis, an AIDS-defining illness.^{2,3}

C. gattii are characterized serologically as serotypes B and C, and clinical isolates are relatively rare.³ Although cryptococcosis was historically considered to be a tropical and subtropical illness, in the late 1990's, cryptococcal disease in healthy people, domestic pets and wildlife caused by *C. gattii* appeared on Vancouver Island, British Columbia and it subsequently spread to the mainland and into the northwest United States.²⁻⁴ The origin of this outbreak is unknown, though *C. gattii* strain R265 is known to be the causative agent.⁴

Table 1: *C. gattii* Strains

Parental Strains	BEI Resources	Progeny	BEI Resources
R265	NR-50184	Alg40	NR-50186
CBS1930	NR-50185		
R265	NR-50184	Alg75	NR-50187
Alg40	NR-50186		
R265	NR-50184	Alg81	NR-50188
Alg75	NR-50187		

Parental Strains	BEI Resources	Progeny	BEI Resources
R265	NR-50184	Alg99	NR-50189
Alg81	NR-50188		
R265	NR-50184	Alg114	NR-50190
Alg99	NR-50189		
R265	NR-50184	Alg115	NR-50191
Alg114	NR-50190		
R265	NR-50184	Alg127	NR-50192
Alg115	NR-50191		
R265	NR-50184	Alg144	NR-50193
Alg127	NR-50192		
R265	NR-50184	Alg159	NR-50194
Alg144	NR-50193		
R265	NR-50184	Alg166	NR-50195
Alg159	NR-50194		
R265	NR-50184	AIR265a	NR-50196
Alg166	NR-50195		
R265	NR-50184	AIR265α	NR-50197
Alg166	NR-50195		
R265	Mutant	Alg254	NR-50198
Alg254	Mutant	Alg268	NR-50199
R265	Mutant	AlgFUR1-1	NR-50200
AIR265a	NR-50196	Alg250	NR-50201
AlgFUR1-1	NR-50200		

Material Provided:

Each vial of NR-50184 contains approximately 0.5 mL of yeast cells in 20% glycerol.

Packaging/Storage:

NR-50184 was packaged aseptically in cryovials and is provided frozen on dry ice. The product should be stored at -80°C or colder.

Growth Conditions:

Media:

Modified Sabouraud Dextrose broth or equivalent

Modified Sabouraud Dextrose agar, Yeast Mold agar or equivalent

Incubation:

Temperature: 25°C

Atmosphere: Aerobic

Propagation:

1. Keep vial frozen until ready for use; thaw rapidly.
2. Inoculate an agar plate with approximately 50 µL of thawed culture and/or transfer the entire thawed aliquot into a single tube of broth
3. Incubate the plate and/or tube at 25°C for 2 to 4 days.

Citation:

Acknowledgment for publications should read “The following reagent was obtained through BEI Resources, NIAID, NIH: *Cryptococcus gattii*, Strain R265, NR-50184.”

Biosafety Level: 2

Appropriate safety procedures should always be used with this material. Laboratory safety is discussed in the following publication: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and National Institutes of Health. Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories. 5th ed. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2009; see www.cdc.gov/biosafety/publications/bmbl5/index.htm.

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References:

1. Idnum, A., Personal Communication.
2. Zhu, P., et al. “Congenic Strains for Genetic Analysis of Virulence Traits in *Cryptococcus gattii*.” Infect. Immun. 81 (2013): 2616-2625. PubMed: 23670558.

3. Diaz, M. R. and J. W. Fell. “Use of a Suspension Array for Rapid Identification of the Varieties and Genotypes of *Cryptococcus neoformans* Species Complex.” J. Clin. Microbiol. 43 (2005): 3662-3672. PubMed: 16081894.
4. Kidd, S. E., et al. “A Rare Genotype of *Cryptococcus gattii* caused the Cryptococcosis Outbreak on Vancouver Island (British Columbia, Canada).” Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 101 (2004): 17258-17263. PubMed: 15572442.

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