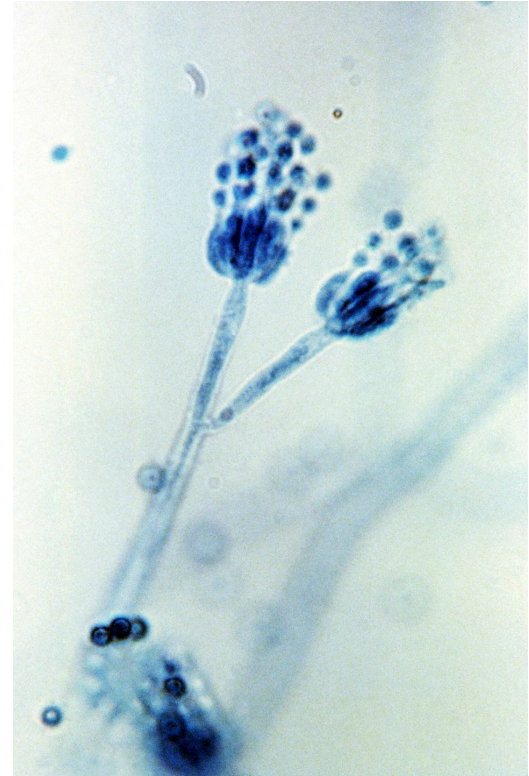

Penicillium

— By Sandhya Sundaram —

What is it?

- A genus of fungi/ moulds
- ~200 species
- Looks like a paint brush
- Branching hyphae making up the mycelium
- Used to produce penicillin



Penicillium Species

- P. Chrysogenum makes penicillin G
- P. Marneffeii- a common infectant in bodies of AIDS patients
- P. Camemberti- used to make cheeses



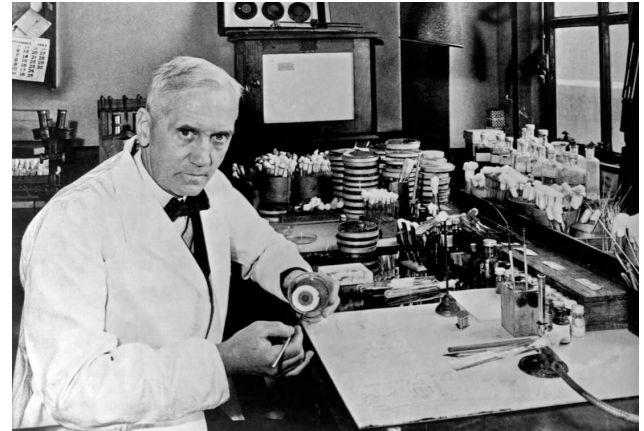
<https://cooking.stackexchange.com/questions/20433/liquid-made-with-cream-and-penicillium-roqueforti> Curd Nerd



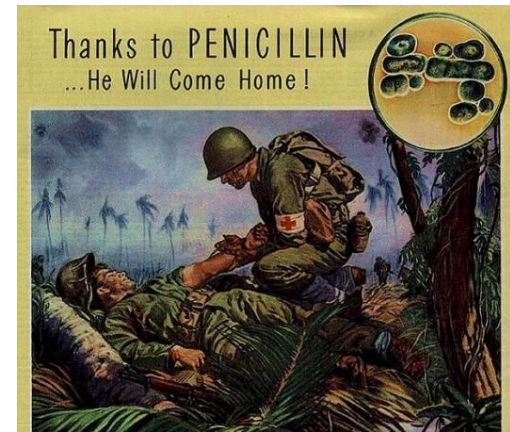
<http://blog.onespotallergy.com/2012/01/if-im-allergic-to-penicillin-can-i-eat-blue-cheese-made-with-penicillium-mold/> David Asher

Penicillin

- First antibiotic
- P. Chrysogenum discovered by Alexander Fleming in 1928
- Used to treat bacterial conditions like syphilis, meningitis, pneumonia, etc.
- Mass production began in 1940s
- Used during WWII
- Resistance has been developed
- Can cause allergic reactions



<http://herbarium.usu.edu/fungi/FunFacts/penicillin.htm>
Jeffrey Sterling



<http://www.nww2m.com/tag/penicillin/> - WWII Museum Blog

Interesting Facts and Statistics

- Post WWII, America produced 650 billion penicillin units a month
- Early Egyptians applied moldy bread to wounds
- 3500 years ago, Chinese also used mold to cure infections
- Toxic to guinea pigs
- Penicillium is the main cause of spoiled food
- Cantaloupes are considered the best place to grow penicillium



<https://antibiotics.wordpress.com/history-of-antibiotics/the-discovery-of-penicillin/>
Stanford Medicine

Significance in History and Everyday life

- Revolutionized modern medicine
- Caused a population explosion
- Saved soldiers who would have died of bacterial infections
- CHEESE!
- Certain meats

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- 5) Lloyd, Christopher, and Andy Forshaw. *What on Earth Evolved?: 100 Species That Changed the World*. New York: Bloomsbury, 2009. Print.