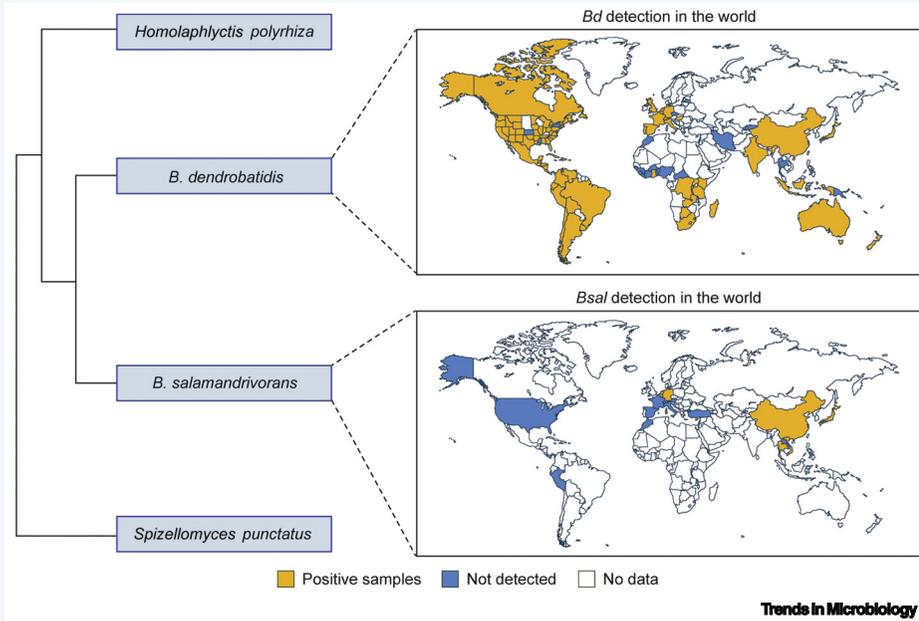


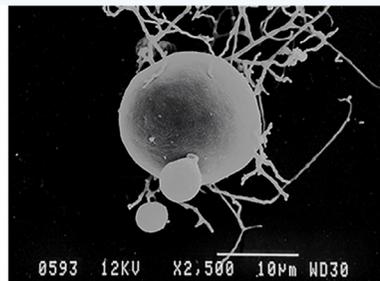
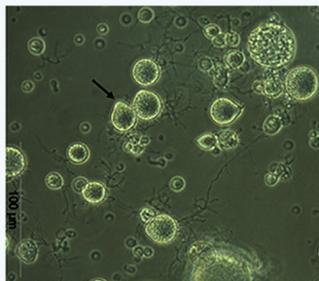
# *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans*

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The recently discovered species *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans* (*Bsal*) is a fungal pathogen of salamanders and newts that has recently spread from Asia into Europe, devastating the fire salamander. The disease is characterized by multifocal superficial erosions and deep ulcerations in the skin of salamanders, with several European species particularly susceptible. Although seemingly unaffected, the Anura (frogs and toads) can also act as *Bsal* carriers, with anthropogenic trade and inter/intraspecific contact likely spreading the disease. *Bsal* is closely related to the generalist amphibian pathogen *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (*Bd*), which was discovered two decades prior. The genome of *Bsal* is larger (32 Mb) than that of *Bd* (23 Mb) and it encodes over 100 metalloprotease M36 genes, correlating with its ulcerative pathology. Further work on the population genetics of *Bsal* and genetic differences between *Bd* and *Bsal* should uncover the mechanisms behind their differences in host specificity, pathology, and epidemiology.



**TAXONOMY AND CLASSIFICATION:**  
**KINGDOM:** Fungi  
**PHYLUM:** Chytridiomycota  
**ORDER:** Rhizophydiales  
**GENUS:** *Batrachochytrium*  
**SPECIES:** *salamandrivorans*

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An Martel, University of Ghent, provided the micrograph of *B. salamandrivorans*, in which (left) *Bsal* sporangia in mTGhL media develop discharge tubes (arrow) to release zoospores, and (right) a scanning electron microscopic image of *Bsal* with rhizoids. Duncan Wilson and Matthew Fisher provided valuable comments.

## Resources

[www.salamanderfungus.org/resources/maps/](http://www.salamanderfungus.org/resources/maps/)

[www.bd-maps.net/maps/](http://www.bd-maps.net/maps/)

## Literature

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