

**Zeitschrift:** Botanica Helvetica  
**Herausgeber:** Schweizerische Botanische Gesellschaft  
**Band:** 97 (1987)  
**Heft:** 2

**Artikel:** Disruption of the bipolar gametangial segregation by anticytoskeletal chemicals in *Allomyces*  
**Autor:** Turian, Gilbert / Ojha, Mukti  
**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-67880>

### **Nutzungsbedingungen**

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

### **Conditions d'utilisation**

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

### **Terms of use**

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

**Download PDF:** 03.04.2026

**ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>**

## Disruption of the bipolar gametangial segregation by anticytoskeletal chemicals in *Allomyces*

Gilbert Turian and Mukti Ojha

Laboratoire de Microbiologie générale, Département de Biologie végétale, Université de Genève, 3, place de l'Université, CH-1211 Genève 4, Switzerland

Manuscript accepted October 6, 1987

### Abstract

Turian G. and Ojha M. 1987. Disruption of the bipolar gametangial segregation by anticytoskeletal chemicals in *Allomyces*. Bot. Helv. 97: 357–360.

The genetically-controlled inverse bipolar sexualizing gradient of the *Allomyces* can be dissipated by adequate concentrations of both the antiactin cytochalasin E and anti-tubulins DMSO and benlate.

In cell morphogenesis, the process of establishment and fixation of the polar axis precedes the unequal distribution of cytoplasmic components along that axis (Quatrano 1978). Such a sequence is well exemplified in the fucoid algae and possibly *Acetabularia*, in which certain macromolecules are synthesized throughout the cell and then redistributed to some predetermined site specified by the polar axis. Two mechanisms could control this type of segregation: a cytoplasmic, electrical potential gradient or field which could electrophoretically segregate macromolecules on the basis of their net charge and/or a mechanical contractile mechanism involving actin microfilaments.

Sex differentiation and its segregation into inversely superposed gametangia in the epigynous *Allomyces macrogynus* and hypogynous *A. arbuscula* is genetically-controlled (Emerson & Wilson 1954), as confirmed by DNA-mediated cross-inversion of sexual bipolarity (Ojha & Turian 1971).

The control of differentiation of gametangial territories could be effected through the gradiental segregation of a respiration inhibitory factor as suggested by the masculinizing effect of acridines (Turian et al. 1969; Rønne & Olson 1976). However, the chemo-mechanical mediator of this genetical polarity is still unknown. Consequently, and in view of the recent biochemical trend to attribute such a role to the cytoskeleton (Quatrano 1978, Fulton 1984, McKerracher & Heath 1987), it became tempting to ascribe the vectorial cytoplasmic movement involved in such bipolar sexual morphogenesis to microfibrillar-microtubular elements of the cytoskeleton.

The antiactin chemical cytochalasin B can selectively interfere with the process of axis establishment and fixation at the germination of fucoid eggs (Quatrano et al. 1979). However, microtubules have also been implicated in the processes of maintenance of polar axiation at hyphal growth in fungi (Howard & Aist 1977). In fact, both microfilamentous and microtubular components of the cytoskeleton might coordinately

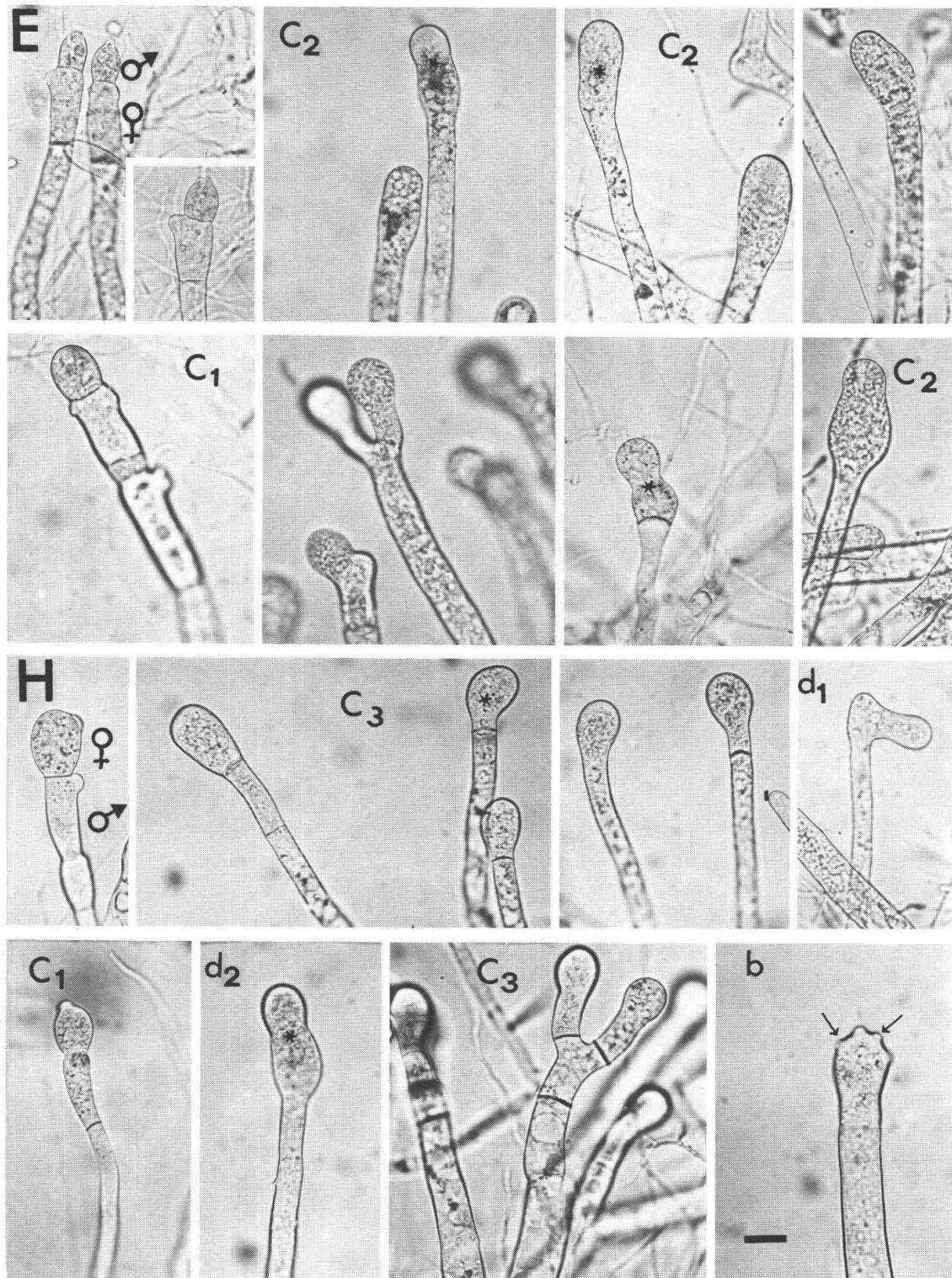


Plate I. Progressive disruption (from left to right) of the bipolar segregation of male-female epigynous (E) gametangia of *Allomyces macrogynus* and female-male hypogynous (H) gametangia of *A. arbuscula*. Dissipation of the inversely bipolar sexual gradients leads to uniformization of the cytoplasmic content, male dominance being visualized by the spreading of yellow, carotene-containing lipid granules (\*) over the non-delimited, sexual "territories". Small vegetative colonies produced in semi synthetic medium (PYG) and transferred into wells of 1 ml dilute saline solution

establish and sustain polar axiation (Lloyd 1982). In this context, we therefore have explored the effect of inhibitors of both actin (cytochalasin E, Tannenbaum 1978) and tubulin (dimethylsulfoxide or DMSO, Capková 1986, and benlate, Howard & Aist 1977) on the process of axial, sexual segregation in the inversely bipolar species of *Allomyces*.

At relatively moderate concentration of the anticytoskeletal drugs used, the first morphological criteria of polar axiation, as shown by the development of club-like primers of gametangial couples, could generally still be reached (Plate I, c<sub>1</sub>, c<sub>2</sub>, d<sub>2</sub>). Along such normally axiated structures, it was mainly the inverse bipolar segregation of sexual biochemical properties (male  $\gamma$ -carotene synthesizing enzymes and elicitors of nuclear multiplication *versus* female high ribonucleic acid synthesis and respiratory-competent mitochondria, see Turian 1975) which were selectively prevented in parallel to the presumed disruption of the polarizing microfibrillar and microtubular tracks. Only in a few extreme cases was the polar axis itself deviated to produce cross-like structures (Plate I, d<sub>1</sub>) or simply shortened to an inflated apex (Plate I, e<sub>2</sub>).

The effects described suggest that the presumed disruption of bipolarizing tracks would permit the overflow by the dominant male tendency of the presumptive female "territories" on the sexually differentiating hyphal apices of *both* epi- and hypogynous species. The suggestive conclusion of such effect is that DNA-controlled inverse bipolarity is mediated by the inversely-directed function of filamentous actin and/or tubulin microstructures vectorially conveying the sex-determining elicitors.

## Résumé

Le gradient de sexualisation bipolaire, génétiquement inversé selon l'espèce d'*Allomyces*, peut être dissipé par des concentrations adéquates soit de l'agent antiactine cytochalasin E soit d'agents antitubuline DMSO ou benlate.

## References

- Capková J. 1986. Effect of dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) on the cytoskeleton of tumour cells. *Acta Biol. Hung.* 37 (Suppl.): 466.
- Emerson R. and Wilson C. M. 1954. Interspecific hybrid and the cytogenetics and cytotaxonomy of *Euellomyces*. *Mycologia* 46: 393–434.
- Fulton A. B. 1984. The cytoskeleton. Cellular architecture and choreography. Chapman and Hall, New York London.
- Howard R. J. and Aist J. R. 1977. Effect of MBC on hyphal tip organization, growth and mitosis of *Fusarium acuminatum* and their antagonism by D<sub>2</sub>O. *Protoplasma* 92: 195–210.
- Lloyd C. W. 1982. The cytoskeleton in plant growth and development. C. W. Lloyd, Academic Press, London.

---

(DS, Machlis & Ossia 1953) for the differentiation of their hyphal apices into couples of gametangia (3 h) or the various regressive structures observed after 6–7 h in the presence of: cytochalasin E, added to DS solution at the beginning of induction to final concentrations of 57  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  (c<sub>1</sub>), 76  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  (c<sub>2</sub>) and 95  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  (c<sub>3</sub>); DMSO, 40  $\mu\text{g/ml}$ , with cross-like effect (d<sub>1</sub>) or doubly inflated structures (d<sub>2</sub>) as also obtained with colchicine (20  $\mu\text{g/ml}$ ); benlate, 2  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  (b), in which papillae (arrows) could appear on the club-like structures induced on widened hyphae. Bar = 10  $\mu\text{m}$ .

- Machlis L. and Ossia E. 1953. Maturation of the meiosporangia of *Euallomyces*. I. The effect of cultural conditions. *Am. J. Bot.* 40: 358–365.
- McKerracher L. J. and Heath I. B. 1987. Cytoplasmic migration and intracellular organelle movements during tip growth of fungal hyphae. *Exp. Mycol.* 11: 79–100.
- Ojha M. and Turian G. 1971. Interspecific transformation and DNA characteristics in *Allomyces*. *Molec. Gen. Genetics* 112: 49–59.
- Quatrano R. S. 1978. Development of cell polarity. *Ann. Rev. Plant Physiol.* 29: 487–510.
- Quatrano R. S., Brawley S. H. and Hogsett W. E. 1979. The control of the polar deposition of a sulfated polysaccharide in *Fucus* zygotes. In: *Determinants of spatial organization*. S. Subtelny & I. R. Konigsberg, Academic Press, New York, pp. 77–96.
- Rønne M. and Olson L. W. 1976. Isolation of male strains of the aquatic Phycomycete *Allomyces macrogynus*. *Hereditas* 83: 191–202.
- Tannenbaum J. 1978. Approaches to the molecular biology of cytochalasin action. In: *Cytochalasins biochemical and cell biological aspects*. S. W. Tannenbaum, North-Holland.
- Turian G. 1975. Differentiation in *Allomyces* and *Neurospora*. *Trans. Br. mycol. Soc.* 64: 367–380.
- Turian G., Ojha M., Scheps R. and Oulevey N. 1969. Oxidative deficiencies and some ultrastructural features of acridine-induced male strains of *Allomyces arbusculus*. *Arch. Microbiol.* 69: 92–100.