

## Outlineoffungi.org - Notes 546, [Mucochytrium](#)

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**[Mucochytrium](#)** S. Geraci-Yee & B. Allam

[Mucochytrium](#) was introduced by [Geraci-Yee et al. \(2021\)](#) to accommodate a facultative parasite of the hard clam (*Mercenaria mercenaria*) commonly named as Quahog Parasite Unknown (QPX). This monotypic genus, typified by *M. quahogii*, belongs to the family *Thraustochytriaceae* (thraustochytrids) in the class *Labyrinthulomycetes* (= *Labyrinthulea*) of the division (or phylum) *Stramenopiles* based on 18S rRNA gene sequencing (Maas et al. 1999, [Ragan et al. 2000](#)). The genus is distinguished from other genera based on molecular inference, production of mucus, and parasitism of hard clams.

### References

- Geraci-Yee S, Brianik CJ, Rubin E, Collier JL et al. 2021 – Erection of a new genus and species for the pathogen of hard clams ‘Quahog Parasite Unknown’ (QPX): *Mucochytrium quahogii* gen. nov., sp. nov. Protist 171, 125793. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S143446102100002X>
- Maas PAY, Kleinschuster SJ, Dykstra MJ, Smolowitz R et al. 1999 – Molecular characterization of QPX, a pathogen of *Mercenaria mercenaria*. Journal of Shellfish Research 18, 561–567.
- Ragan MA, MacCallum GS, Murphy CA, Cannone JJ et al. 2000 – Protistian parasite QPX of hard-shell clam *Mercinaria mercinaria* is a member of Labyrinthulomycota. Diseases of Aquatic Organisms 42, 185–190. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/11104069/>

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