**Cryptococcus gattii, Strain AIR265α**

**Catalog No. NR-43221**

For research use only. Not for human use.

**Contributor and Manufacturer:**
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**Product Description:**
- **Classification:** Filobasidiaceae, Cryptococcus
- **Species:** Cryptococcus gattii
- **Strain:** AIR265α
- **Original Source:** Cryptococcus gattii (C. gattii), strain AIR265α is the progeny of a genotypic cross between C. gattii strains R265 and Alg166.
- **Comment:** C. gattii, strain AIR265α is one strain of a congeneric pair. It was deposited as mating type α. The parental strains, intermediate progeny, second strain of the congeneric pair and various mutants are available through BEI Resources [NR-43208 through NR-43225, Table 1 (below)].

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.

C. gattii are characterized serologically as serotypes B and C, and clinical isolates are relatively rare. 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. The origin of this outbreak is unknown, though C. gattii strain R265 is known to be the causative agent.

**Table 1: C. gattii Strains**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parental Strains</th>
<th>BEI Resources</th>
<th>Progeny</th>
<th>BEI Resources</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>R265</td>
<td>NR-43208</td>
<td>Alg40</td>
<td>NR-43210</td>
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<td>CBS1930</td>
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<td>NR-43211</td>
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<td>NR-43208</td>
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<td>Alg99</td>
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**Material Provided:**
Each vial of NR-43221 contains approximately 1 mL of yeast culture in Yeast Extract Peptone Dextrose broth containing 15% glycerol.

**Packaging/Storage:**
NR-43221 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:** Yeast Extract Peptone Dextrose broth or equivalent
- **Incubation:**
  - **Temperature:** 30°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 30°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 AIR265α, NR-43221."
Biosafety Level: 2

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References:
1. Idnurm, A., Personal Communication.

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