

CDF Checklist of Galapagos Water Molds

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This checklist is automatically generated using Version 3.0 of the online database CDF Galapagos Species Checklist.

The name **Oomycota** is a combination of the Greek name for “egg” and “fungus” because many species have egg-shaped spores.

Many live in humid or aquatic environments and a common name for this group of organisms is therefore **water molds**. Despite their name, the Oomycota are not related to the true fungi, but form a distinct phylogenetic group of microorganisms that grow in long filaments of cells.

Like true fungi, they are also heterotrophic, absorptive organisms.

Most species are saprobes (organisms feeding on organic matter) or pathogens, perhaps best known for such devastating diseases as the potato blight, a water mold infecting potatoes and responsible for the great Irish potato famine in 1845-46 that indirectly caused the death of more than 1 million people from starvation. In Galapagos, water molds remain virtually unknown with the current checklist including only two species.

For marine species distribution data cited in the CDF Galapagos Checklists refer to the five main bioregions of the archipelago (Far Northern, Northern, Western, South Eastern and the Elizabeth Bay Bioregion). For the terrestrial species the more than 120 islands, islets and small rocks have been aggregated into Islands Groups, thus, for example, the island group “Santa Cruz” includes smaller islands like Santa Fé, Plaza Norte, Plaza Sur, Baltra, Daphne Mayor, Daphne Minor, and others.

Please be aware that the distribution data presented here is automatically generated from specimen records and does not always accurately reflect the known distribution for all species.

IUCN red-list assessments presented here may deviate from the global IUCN list for the following reasons:

- for well known species groups like vascular plants or vertebrates updates proposed to the IUCN are shown instead of the outdated, but currently accepted status;
- for poorly known species groups (e.g., lichenized fungi) a general assessment is currently not possible and the list presented here is a regional red-list list for Galapagos archipelago.

Names of taxa included in this checklist: 2 (1 Accepted , 1 Preliminary Identification).

Origin of the taxa included: 1 Cultivated.

1. *Pseudoperonospora cubensis* (Berk. M.A. Curtis) Rostovzev
Taxon status: Identification not yet confirmed.
Origin: Introduced, Cultivated.
Galapagos Distribution: San Cristóbal.
2. *Saprolegnia ferax* (Gruith.) Nees
Taxon status: Accepted name; taxon occurs in Galapagos.
Galapagos Distribution: Santa Cruz.