

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910555296703321
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Titolo	Cryptococcus neoformans / / Arturo Casadevall, John R. Perfect
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Hoboken, New Jersey : , : John Wiley & Sons, Inc., , 2014
ISBN	1-68367-264-X
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (vi, 148 pages) : illustrations
Disciplina	579.59
Soggetti	Cryptococcus
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Sommario/riassunto	The importance of the Basidiomycete <i>Cryptococcus neoformans</i> to human health has stimulated its development as an experimental model for both basic physiology and pathogenesis. We briefly review the history of this fascinating and versatile fungus, some notable aspects of its biology that contribute to virulence, and current tools available for its study.