

# SOLUTION TO CONTRAST FUNGAL INFECTIONS OF MUSHROOMS

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Comparison between untreated bale, with symptoms of green mold (left) and bale treated with the patented solution, in which the production of carpophores is evident (right).

The invention refers to a new yeast strain that can be used to combat fungal infections in mushrooms with agronomic and commercial interest, in particular edible mushrooms of the species *Pleurotus ostreatus* (better known as "Fungo Ostrica" or "Fungo Orecchione").

**Protection:** Italy (opportunity for seeking international patent protection)

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## INVENTION

In recent years, "green mold", a serious disease caused by *Thricoderma pleuroti* and *Thricoderma pleuroticola* fungi, has significantly compromised *Pleurotus ostreatus* production. Fungicidal "prochloraz" has been reported as the most effective product able to prevent the development of "green mold". In addition, it is the only permitted product under the Emilia-Romagna regulation. However, the constant use of that product could cause resistance in the pathogen, damaging the operator, consumers and the environment.

The solution patented by University of Bologna refers to a **yeast able to contrast the principal cause of "green mold" in mushroom growing facility**. Experimental results highlighted a remarkable efficacy of the yeast in contrasting the pathogen, even better than the available agro-chemicals.

## ADVANTAGES

- First product of biological control against "green mold";
- No chemical residues;
- Production cost lower than competing chemical products;
- Easy to use.

## APPLICATIONS

- Cultivation of *Pleurotus ostreatus* mushrooms;
- Directly applicable in mushrooms growing facility.

## CONTACTS

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