

# Assessing occupational exposure to fungi in woodworking environments – the definition of the most suitable sampling method based on a score index

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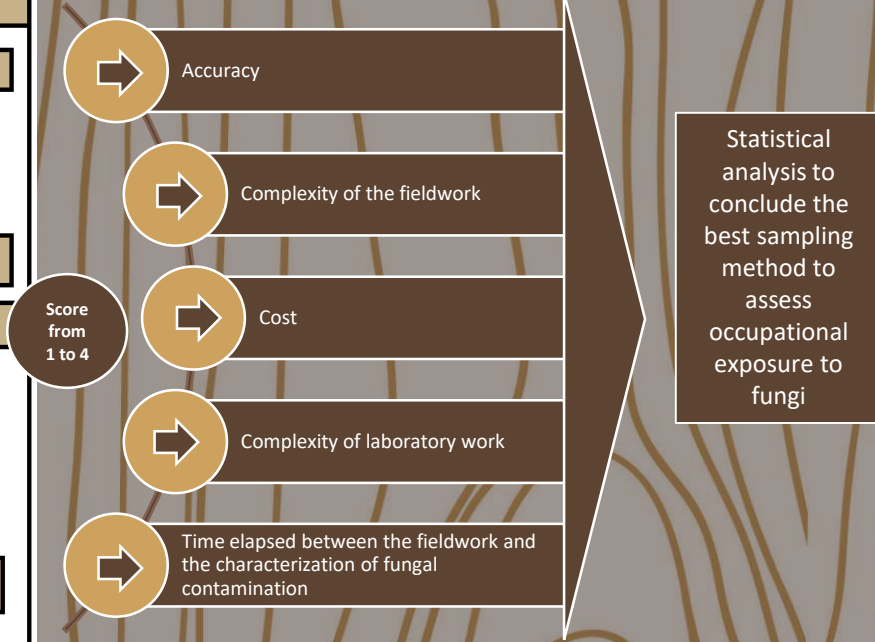
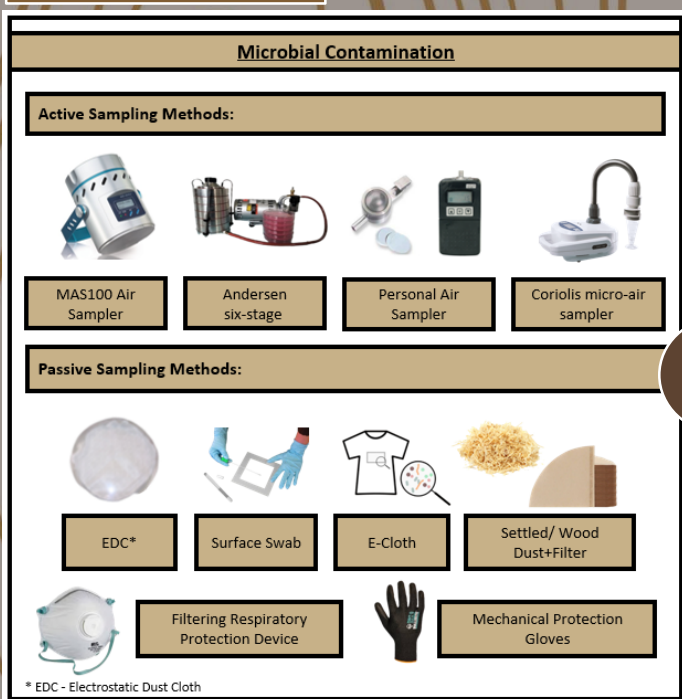
## Introduction

Woodworkers may come into contact with a range of natural and artificial toxins that might be detrimental to their health [1]. To assess that exposure, the sampling strategy is crucial to accurately determine the possible health consequences for workers and gather data on microbial viability. It has been suggested that using scoring rubrics in performance assessments has several benefits, such as enhanced scoring uniformity, the ability to allow correct evaluation of difficult abilities, and learning promotion [2].

## Objective

This evaluation aims to generate a score that will offer current data to determine the best sampling technique for occupational exposure to fungal contamination.

## Methods



## Results and Discussion

The results of this study will allow the development of guidance that can support future microbiological exposure assessment in this occupational setting, as it was seen in a similar study developed in firefighters' headquarters where surface swabs were identified as the best sampling method considering all the criteria [2].

The score developed allow the selection of the most suitable sampling method depending on the characteristics, budget and infrastructures of those who want to develop a similar analysis in this specific occupational environment.

## Conclusions

It will be possible to provide the necessary tools to perform an accurate exposure assessment and allow a more detailed risk assessment, regardless of the constraints of any exposure assessment team (e.g. time, cost, complexity, etc.).

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### References:

[1] Dias M., et. al. 2022. Microbial Occupational Exposure Assessments in Sawmills—A Review. Atmosphere. <https://doi.org/10.3390/atmos13020266>

[2] Cervantes, R., et al. 2022. Development of an Indexed Score to Identify the Most Suitable Sampling Method to Assess Occupational Exposure to Fungi. <https://doi.org/10.3390/atmos13071123>