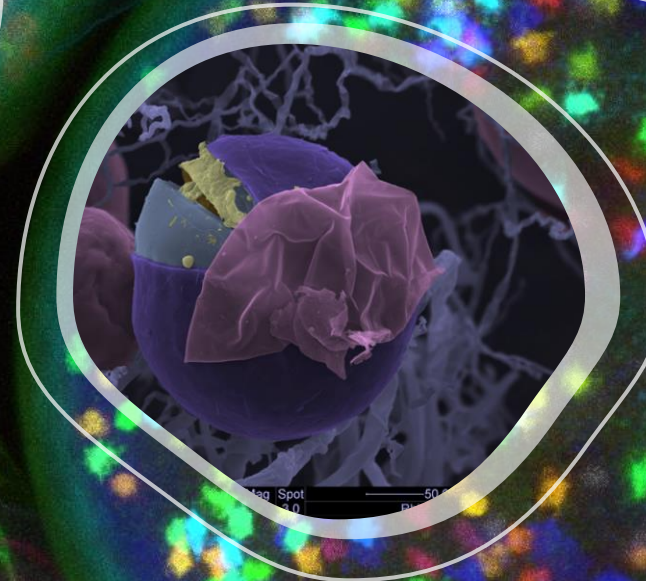
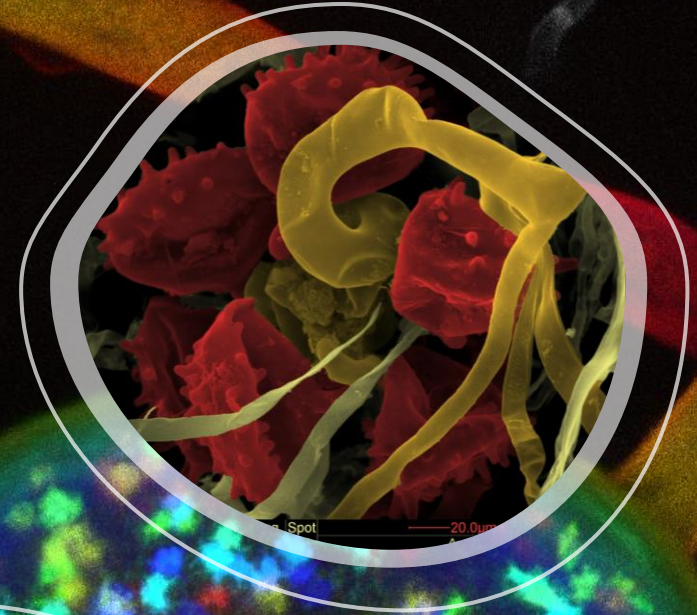
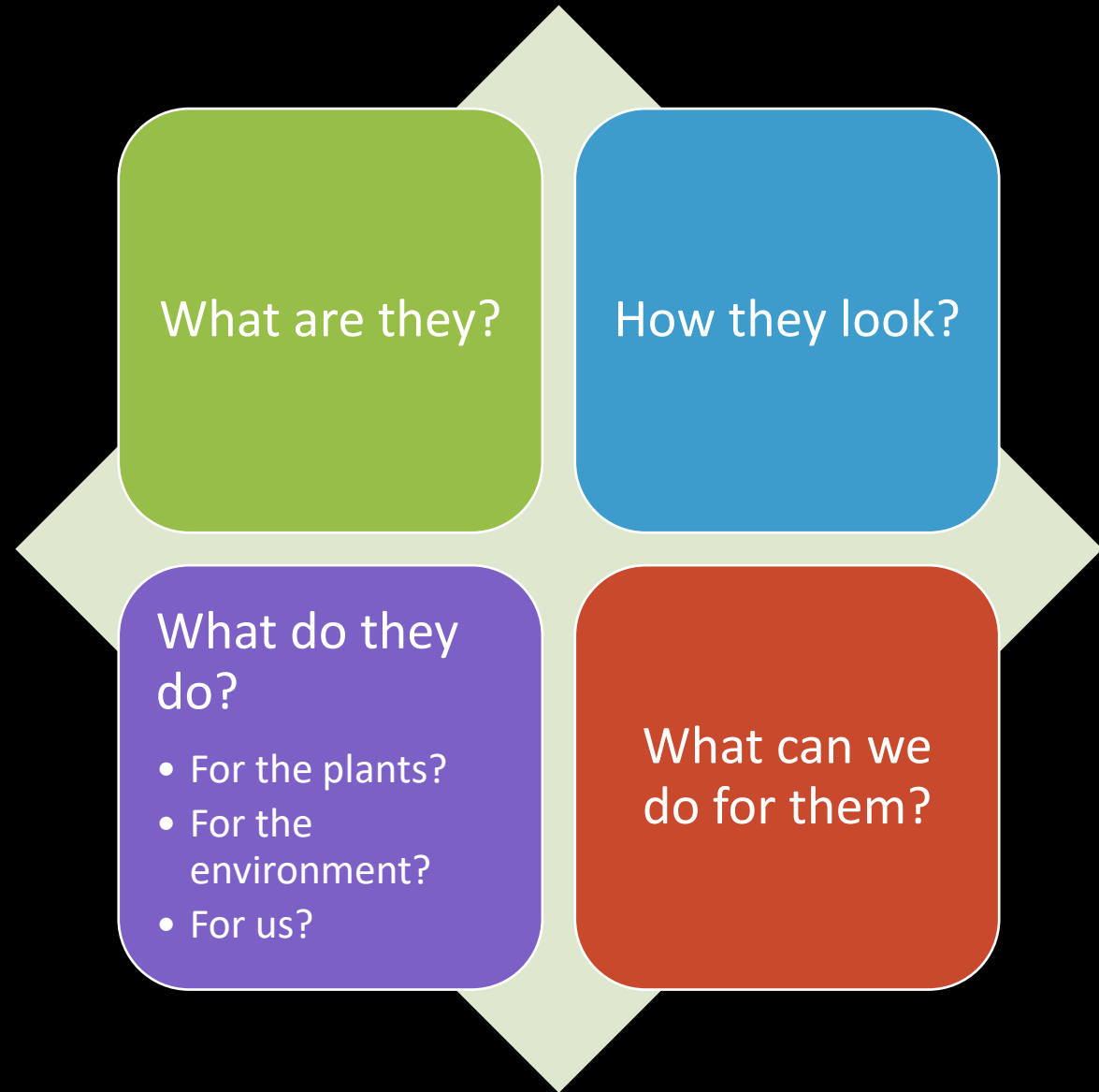


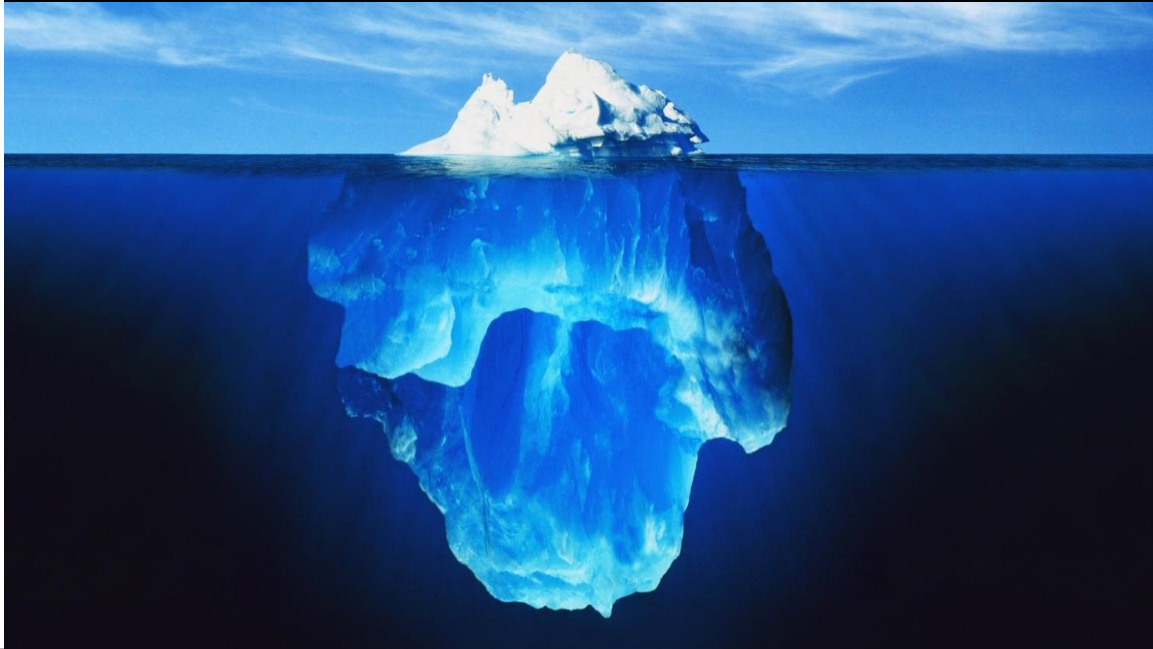
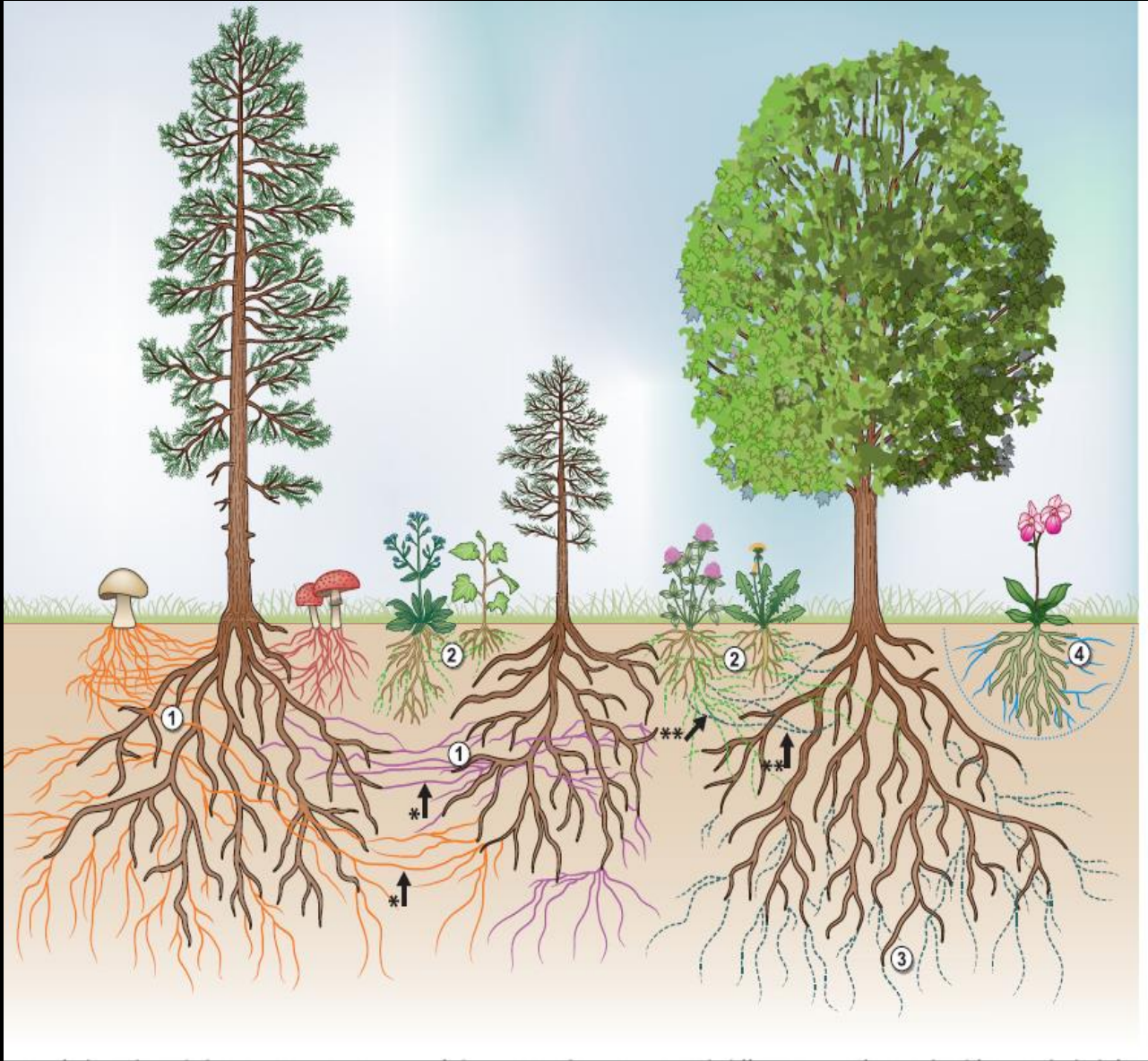
A fungal world beneath our feet

Vasilis Kokkoris
VU Amsterdam



Mycorrhizal fungi

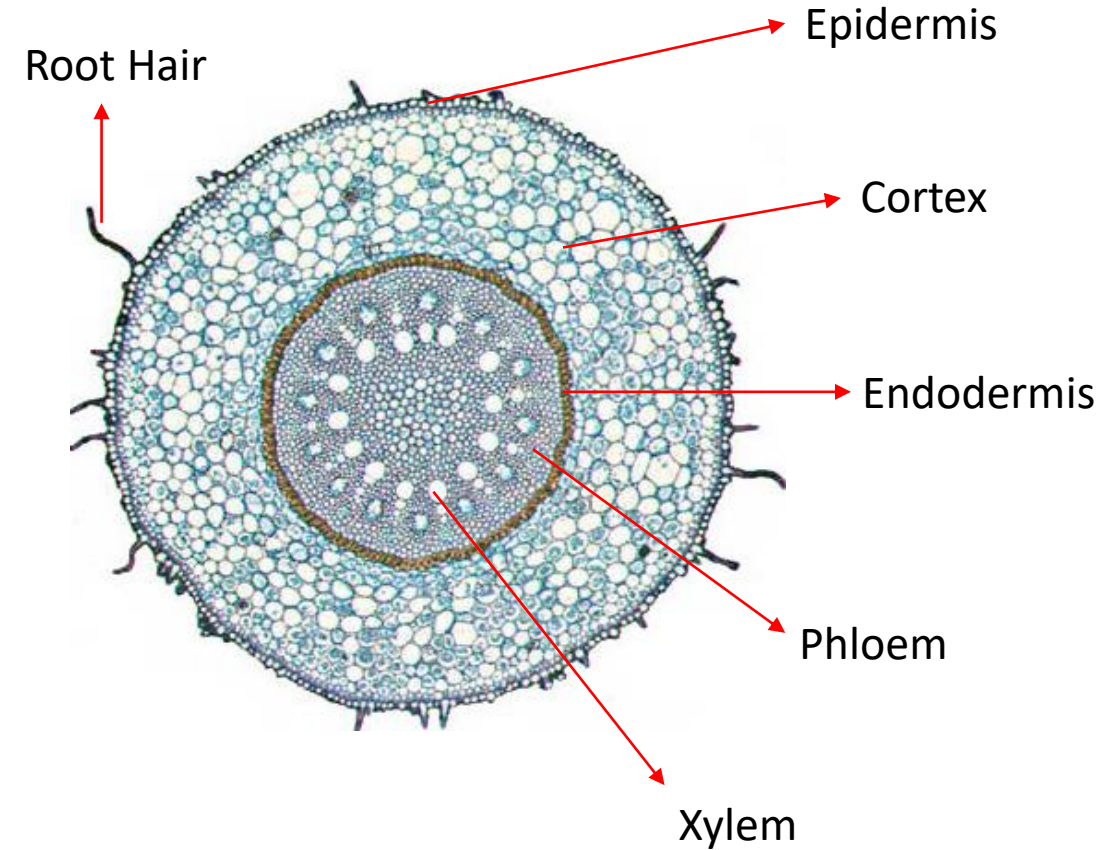
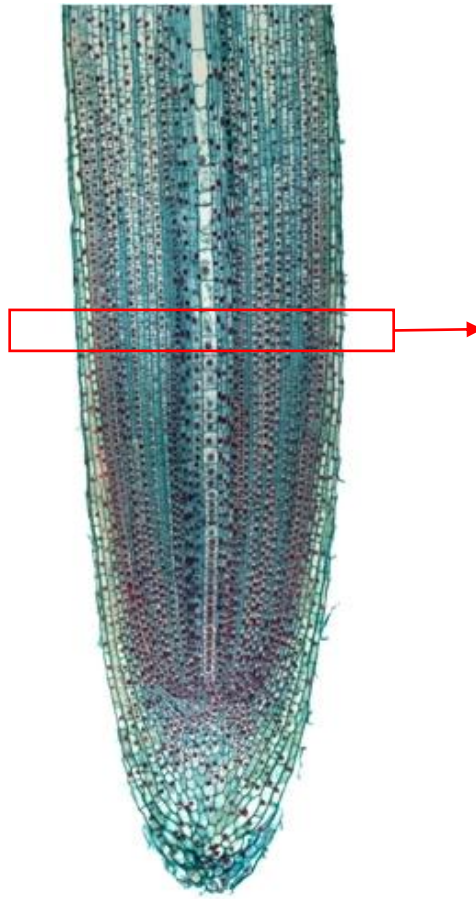
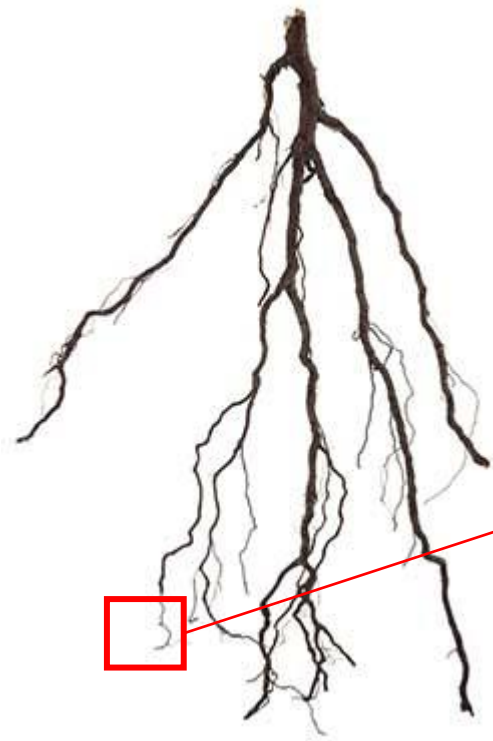


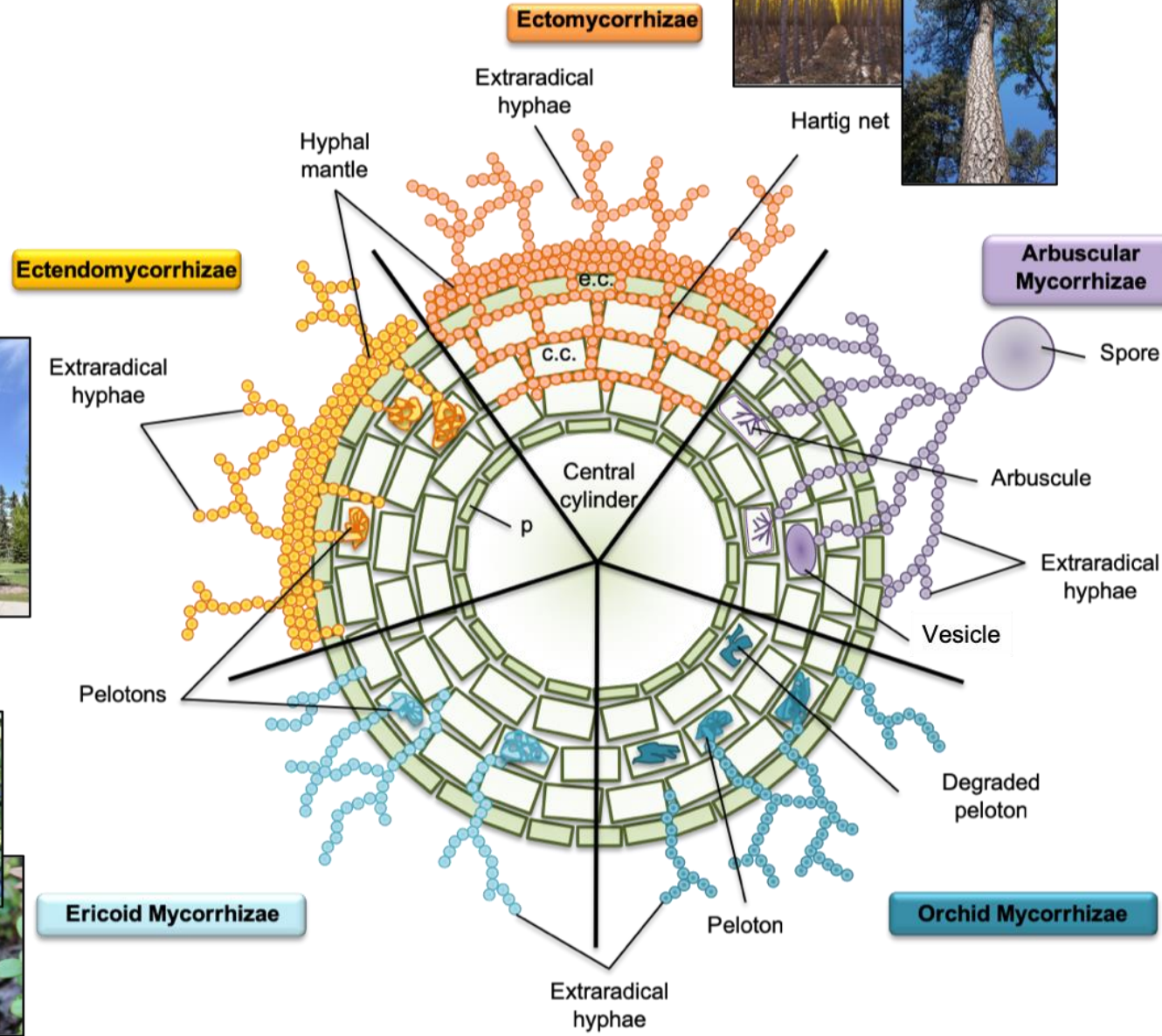


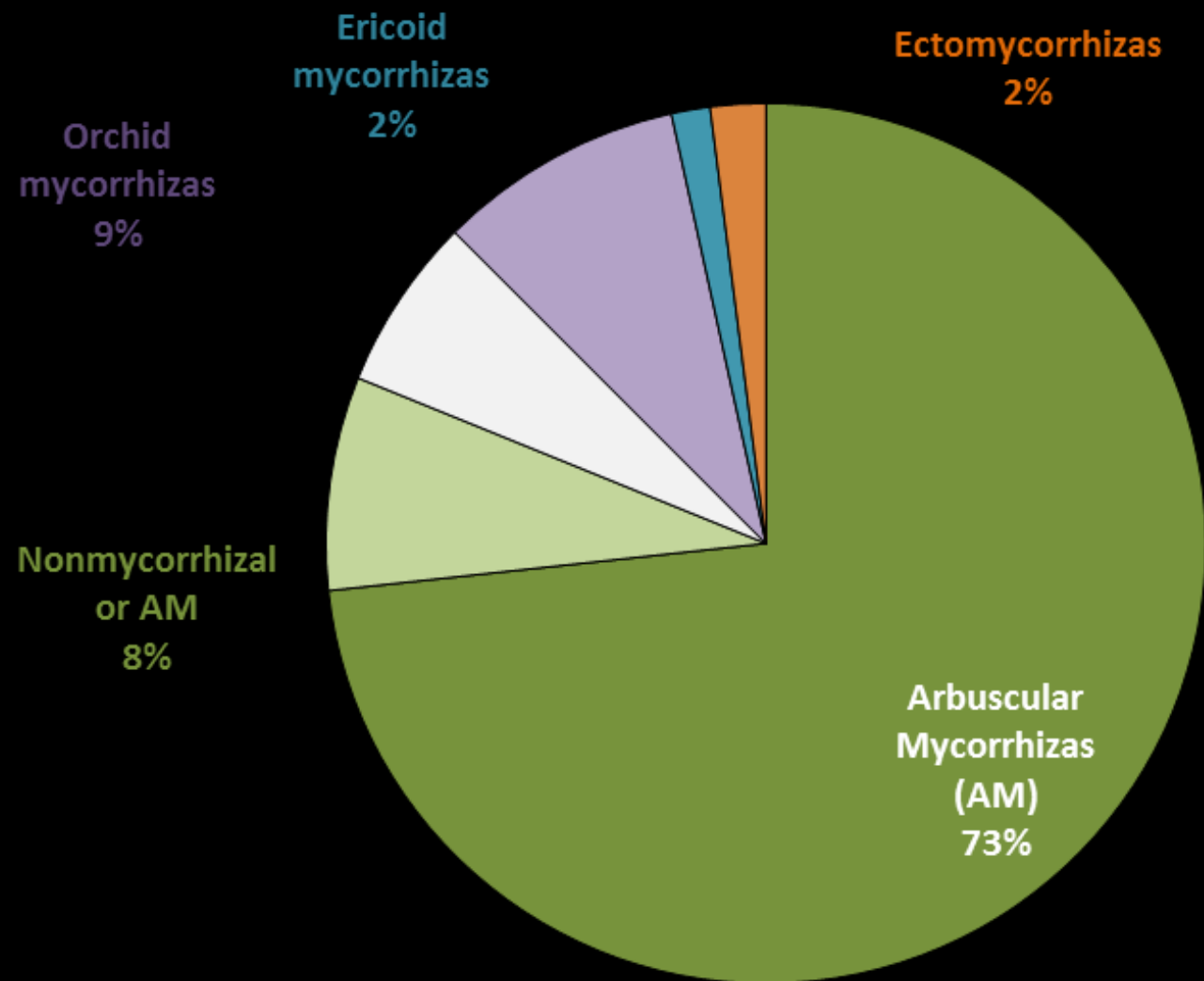
Mycorrhizas

The most widespread symbiotic association
between a mycorrhizal fungus and a plant

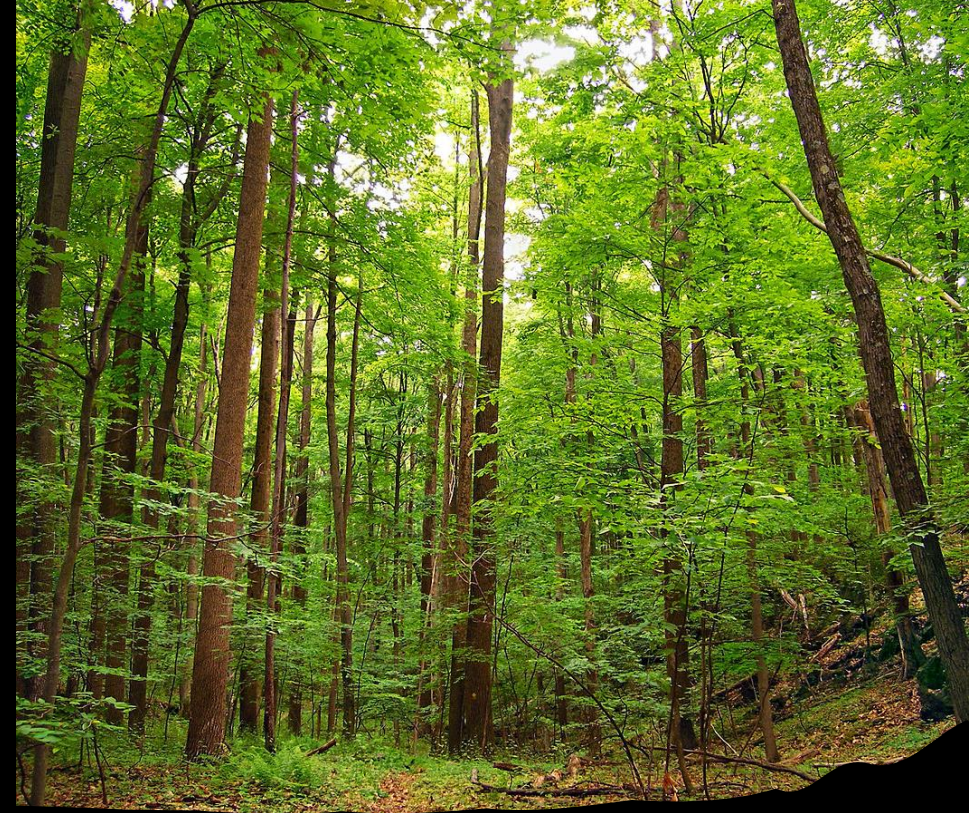
Root microscopy







Brundrett 2009

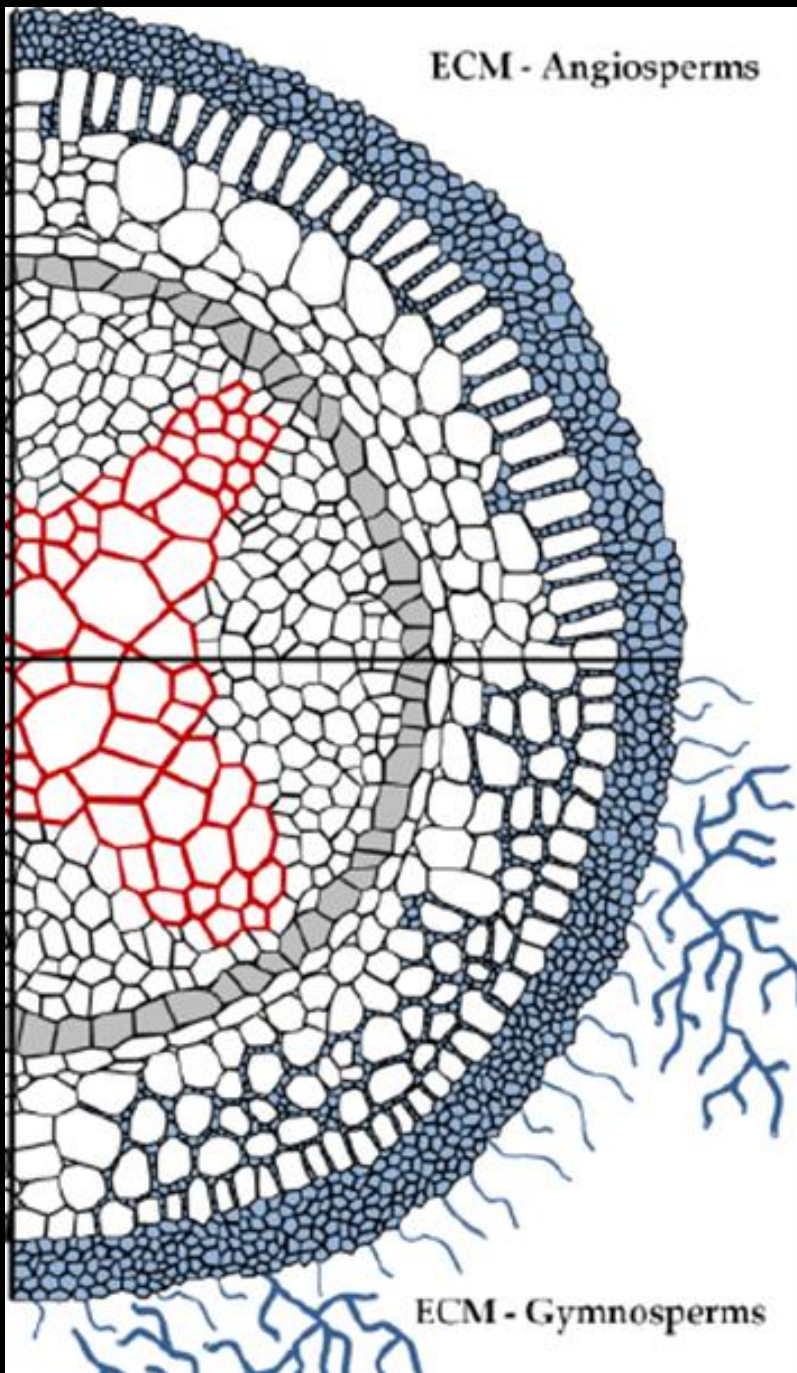


Ectomycorrhizal fungi






ECM - Angiosperms



ECM - Gymnosperms





As big as 1,665 football fields, or nearly
four-square miles (10 square kilometers)



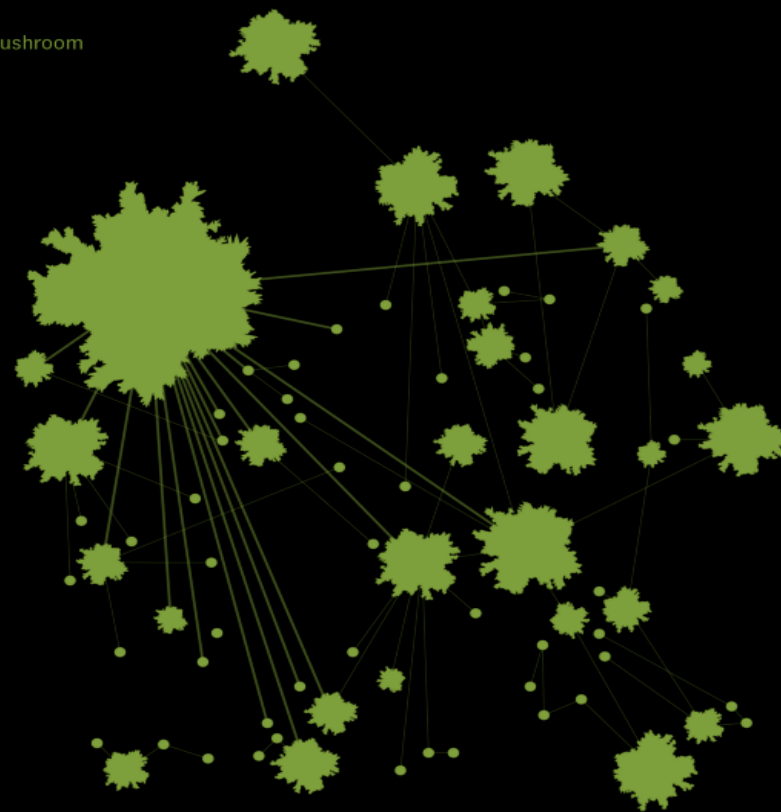
WOOD WIDE WEB

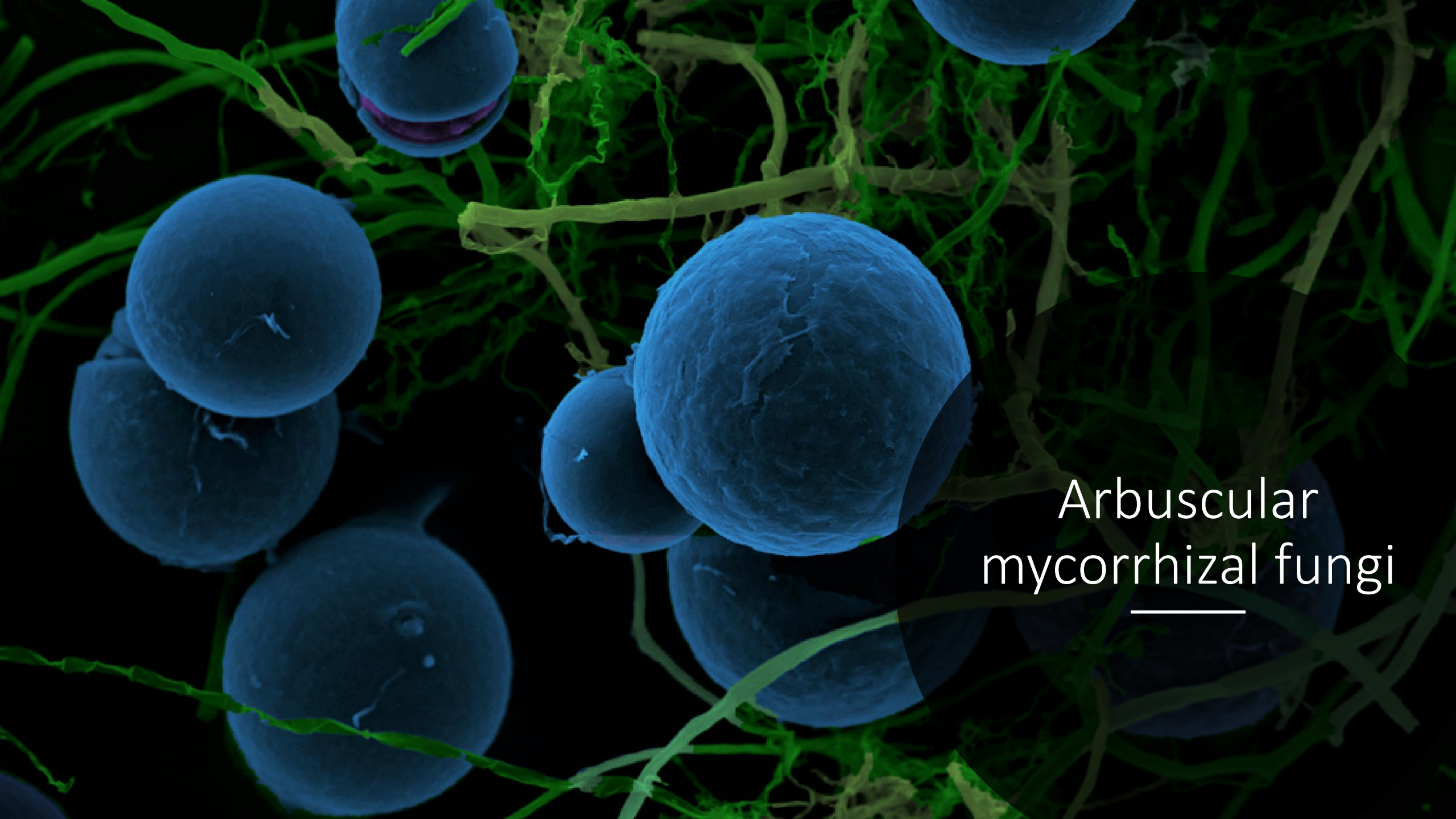


Tree



Mushroom



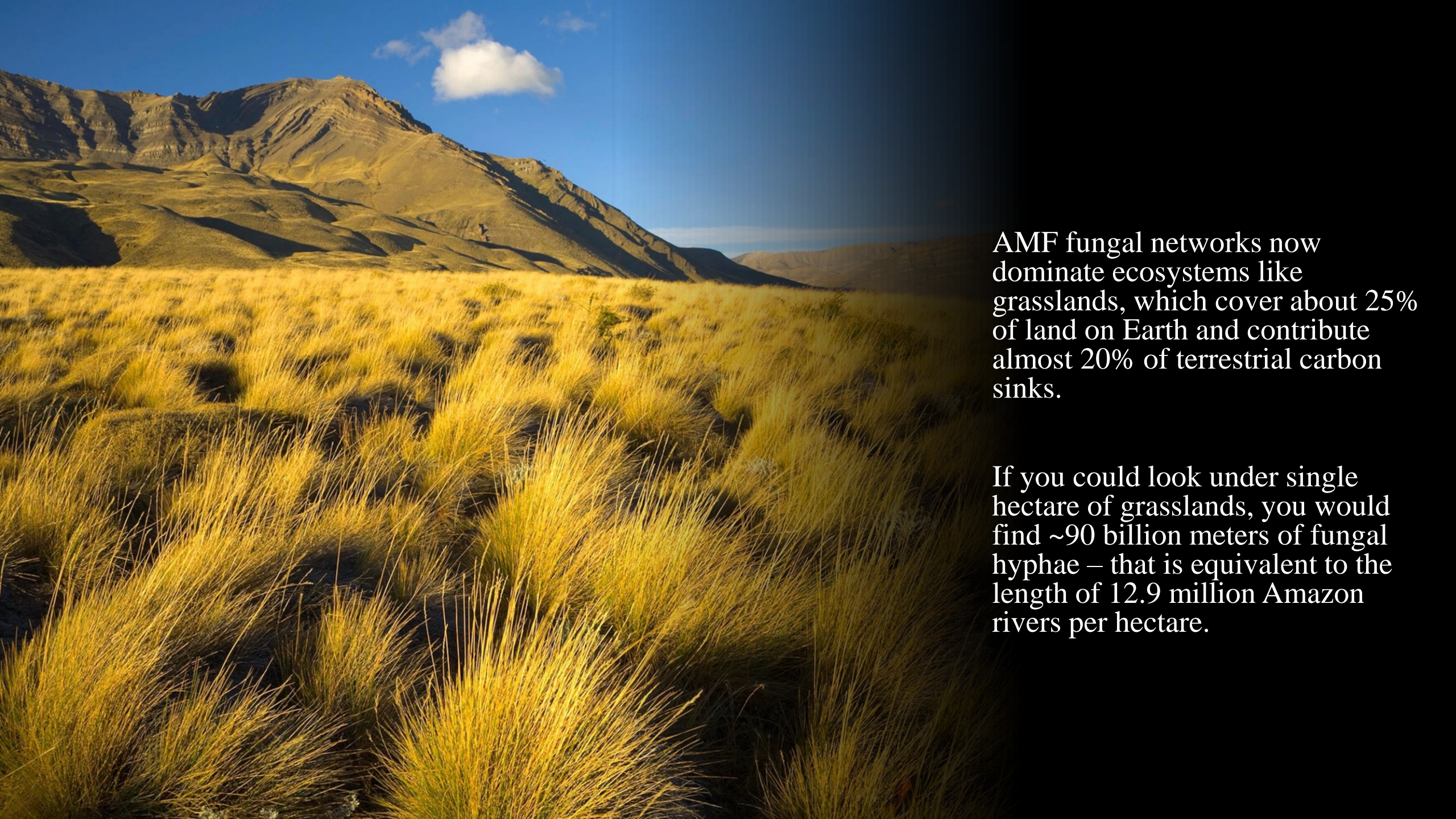
A scanning electron micrograph (SEM) showing several large, spherical, textured spores of arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi. The spores are light blue and have a rough, granular surface. They are surrounded by a dense network of fine, thread-like hyphae, which are colored in a vibrant green. The background is dark, making the spores and hyphae stand out. The text "Arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi" is overlaid on the right side of the image, with a horizontal line underneath it.

Arbuscular
mycorrhizal fungi

Fungal networks have driven massive changes in the earth's atmosphere: The rise of plant-fungal partnerships corresponds with an inconceivable 90% reduction in atmospheric CO₂ levels.

450 million years ago, fungal mycelium facilitated the movement of aquatic plants onto land, serving as plant root systems for tens of millions of years until plants evolved their own roots.





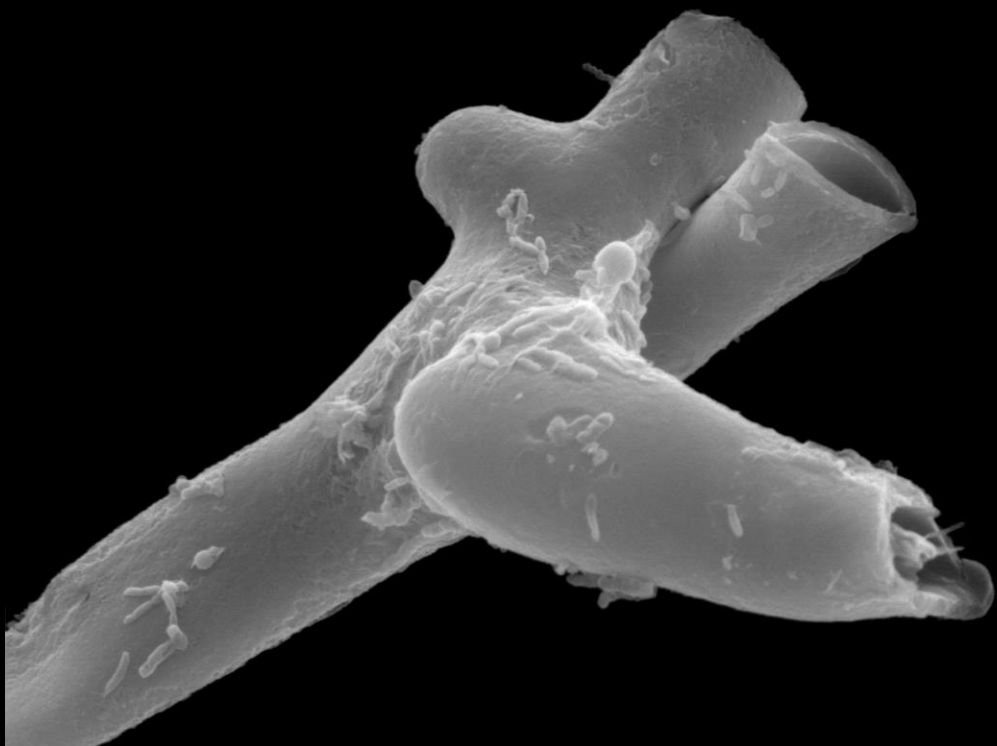
AMF fungal networks now dominate ecosystems like grasslands, which cover about 25% of land on Earth and contribute almost 20% of terrestrial carbon sinks.

If you could look under single hectare of grasslands, you would find ~90 billion meters of fungal hyphae – that is equivalent to the length of 12.9 million Amazon rivers per hectare.

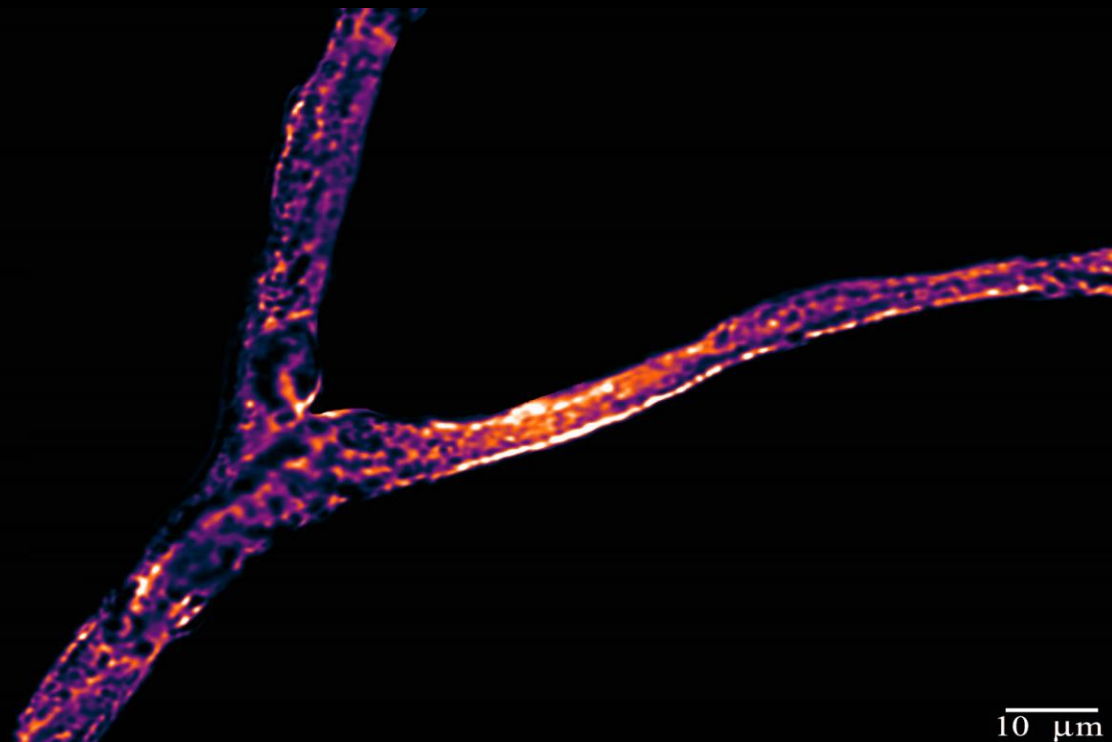


Underground hyphal “rivers”

Fungal networks make up to
50% of the living biomass of
soils.

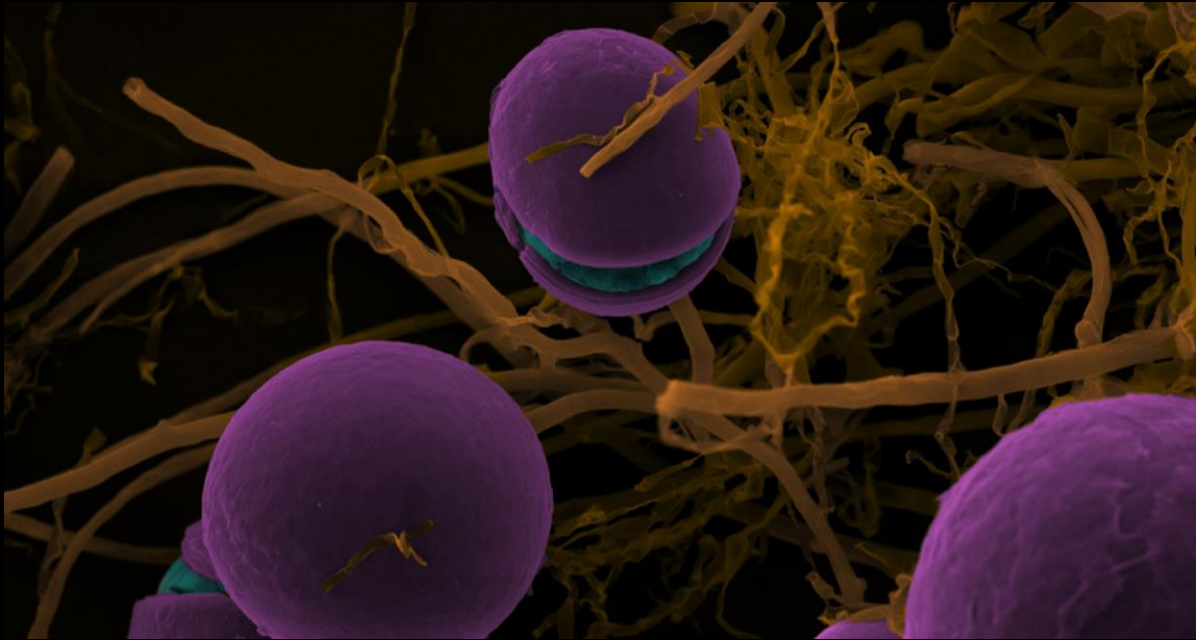


0.00 s



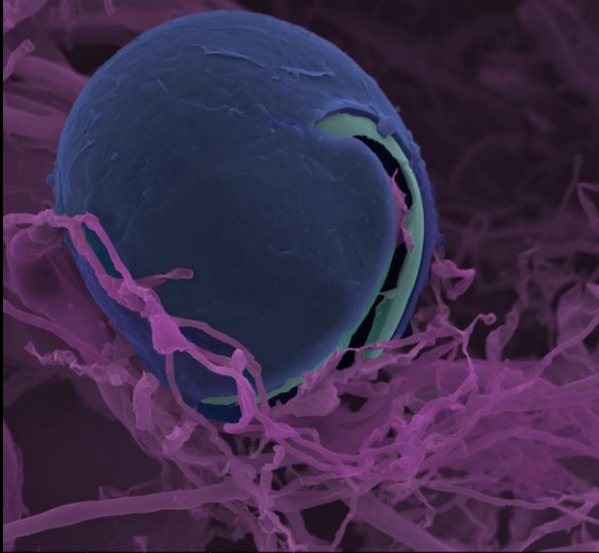
10 μm





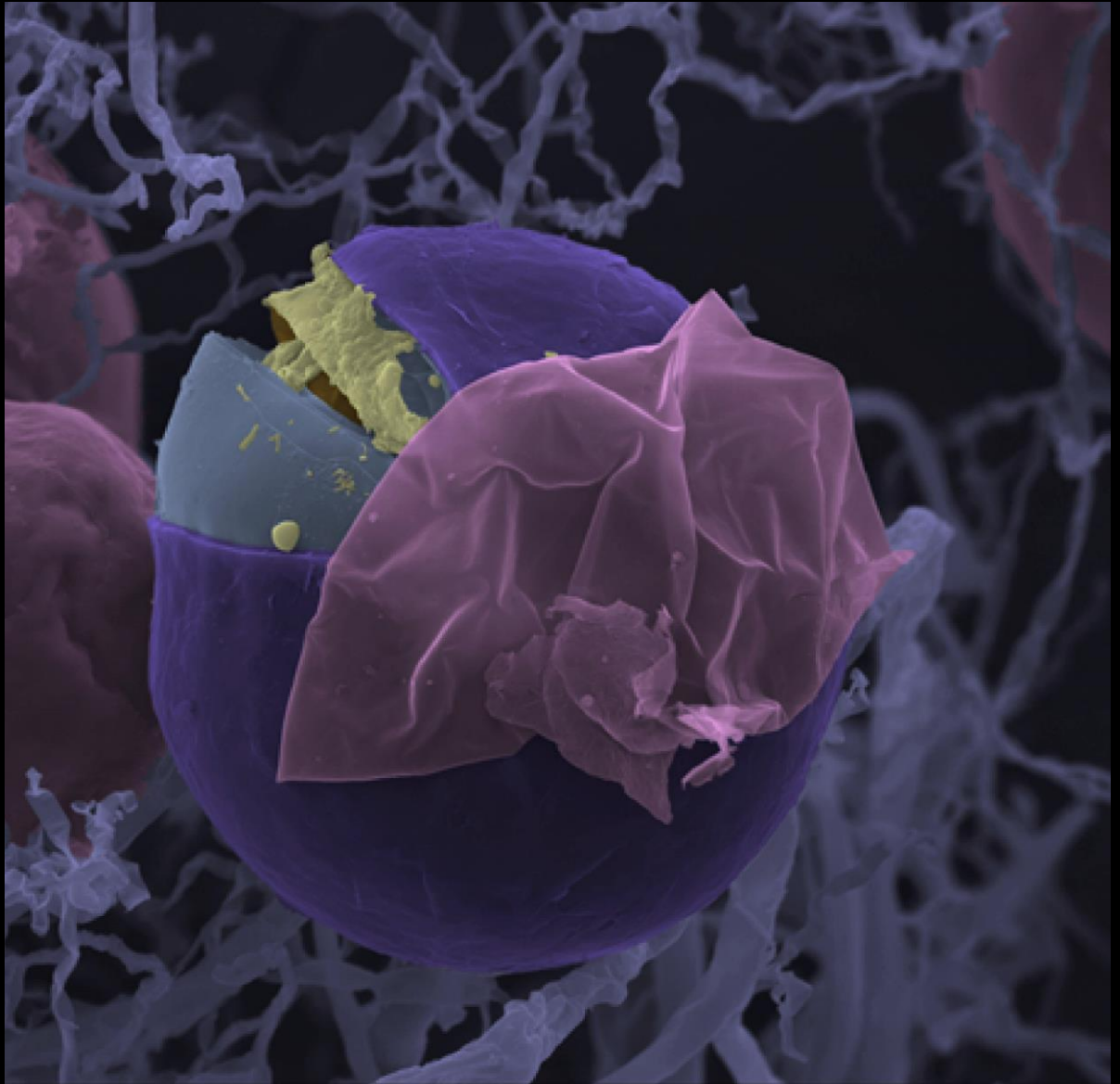
0 HV WD Mag Spot
M 20.0 kV 9.9 mm 3000x 3.0

20.0µm
Auxiliary



2/28/2020 HV WD Mag Spot
2:37:04 PM 20.0 kV 11.8 mm 1600x 3.0

50.0µm
RhizophagusA5

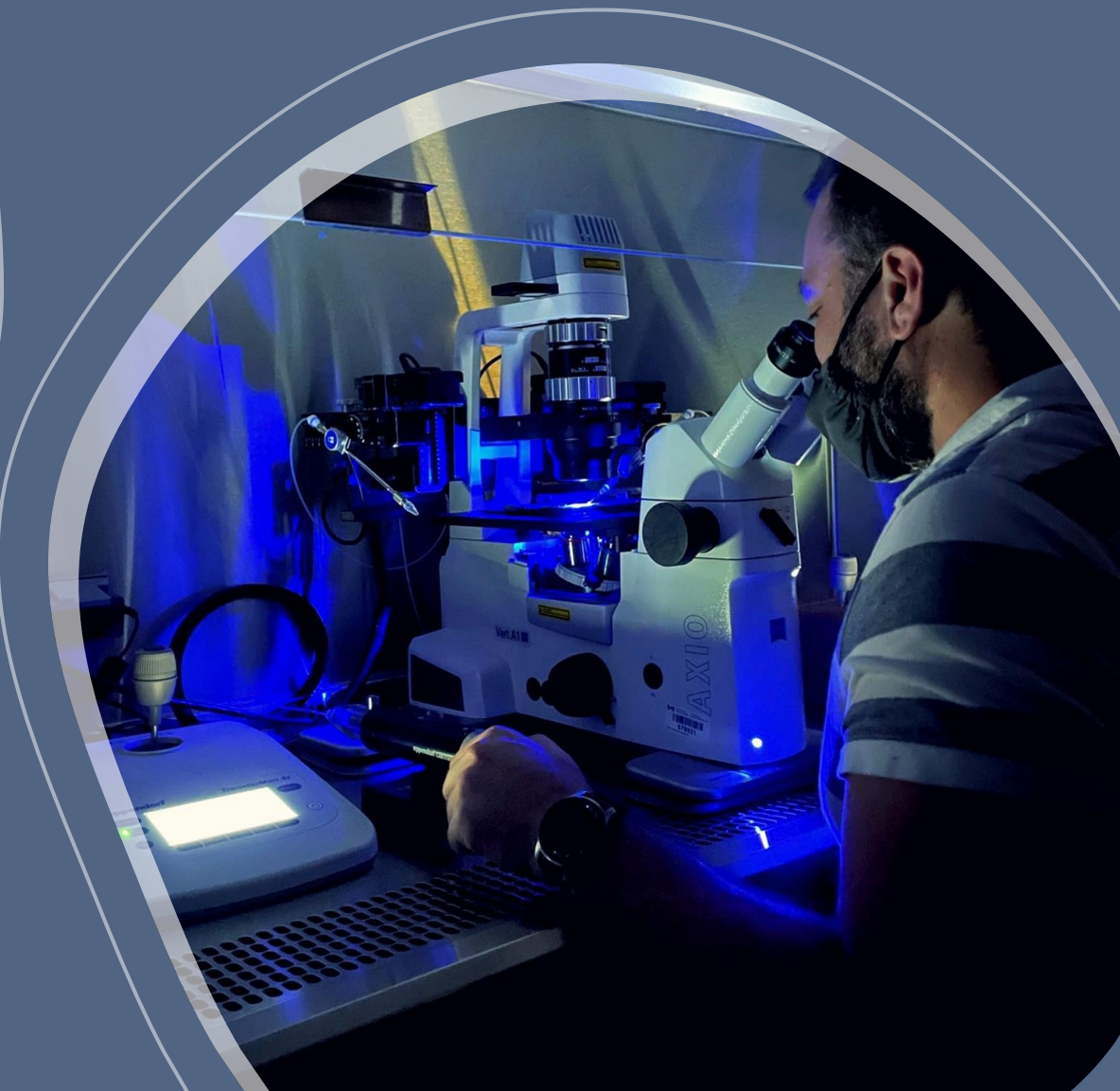
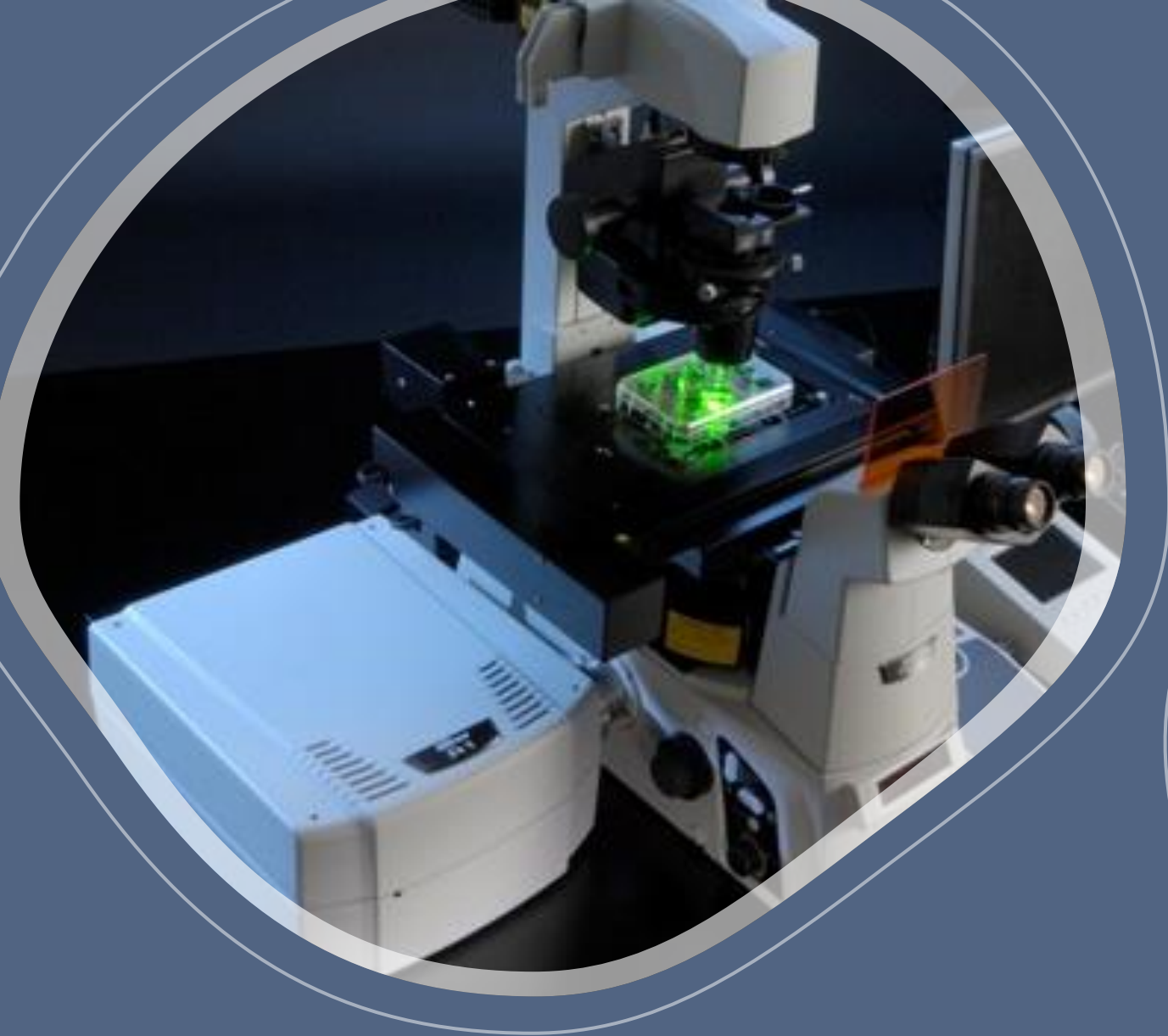


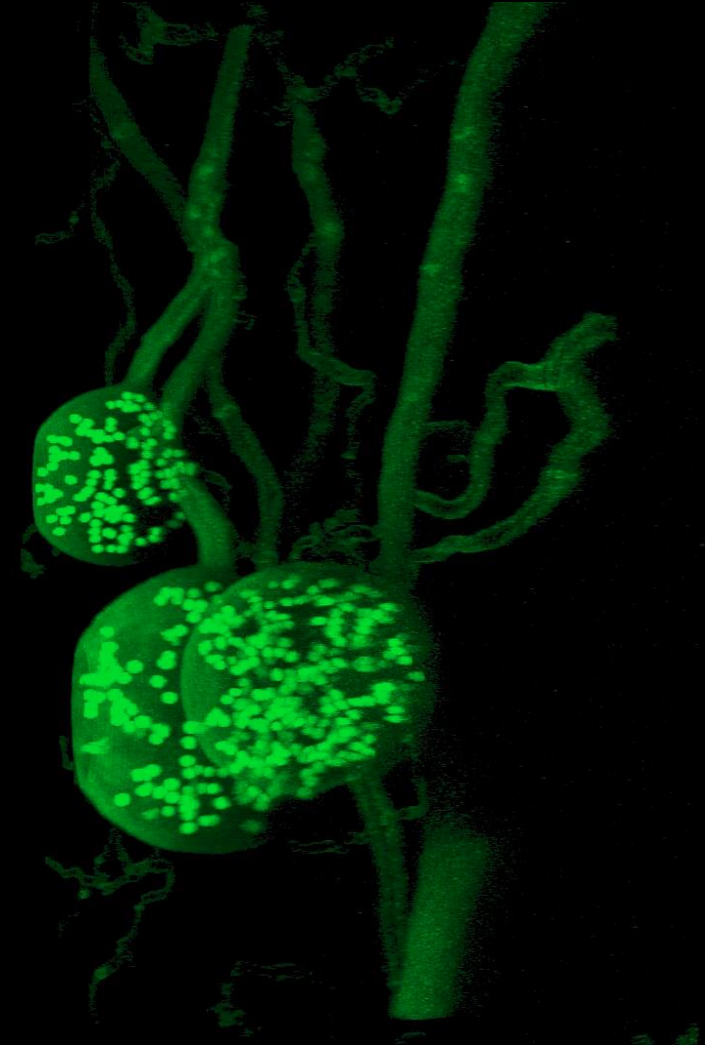
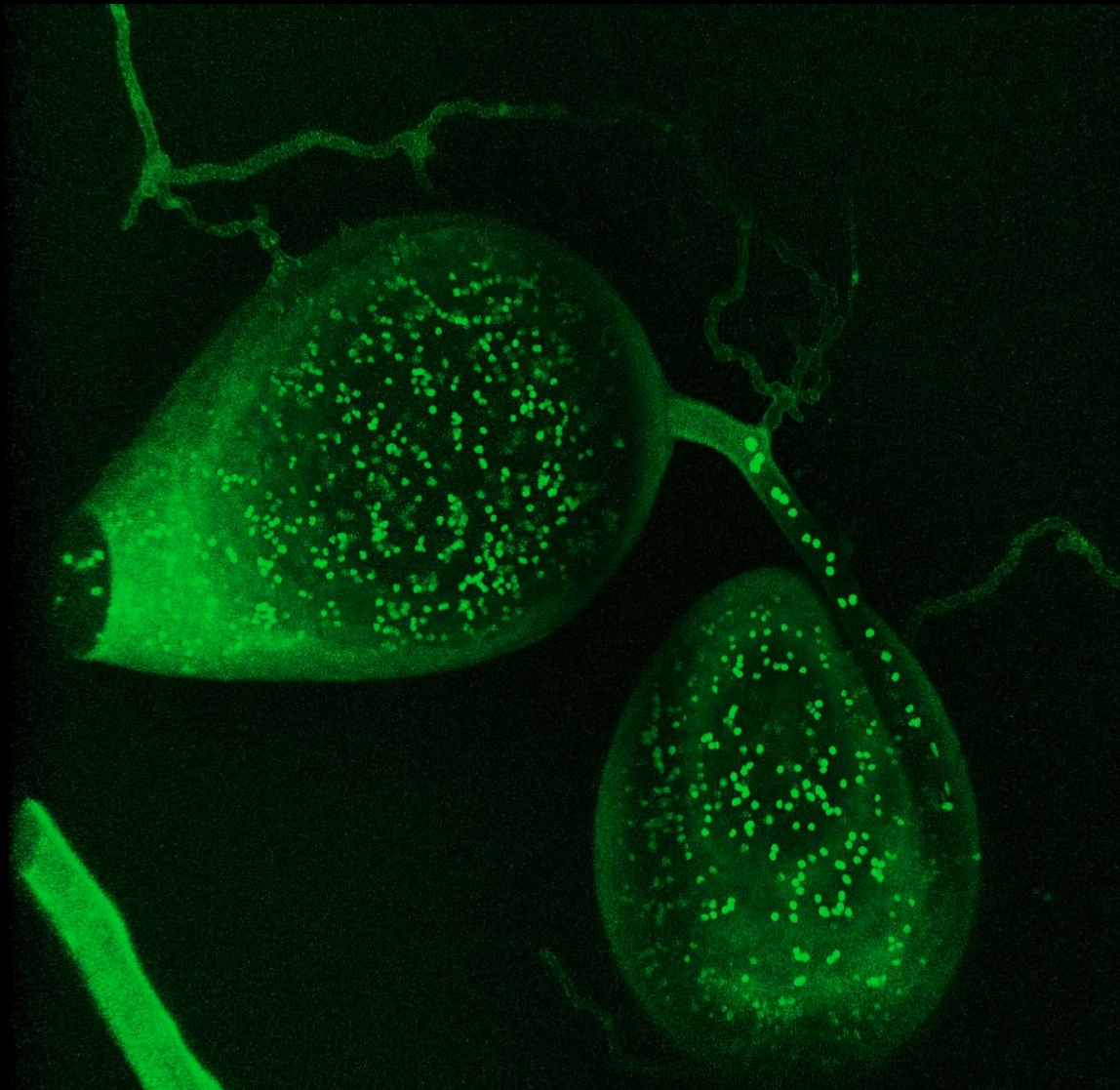
2/28/2020 HV WD Mag Spot
2:44:32 PM 20.0 kV 11.7 mm 1600x 3.0

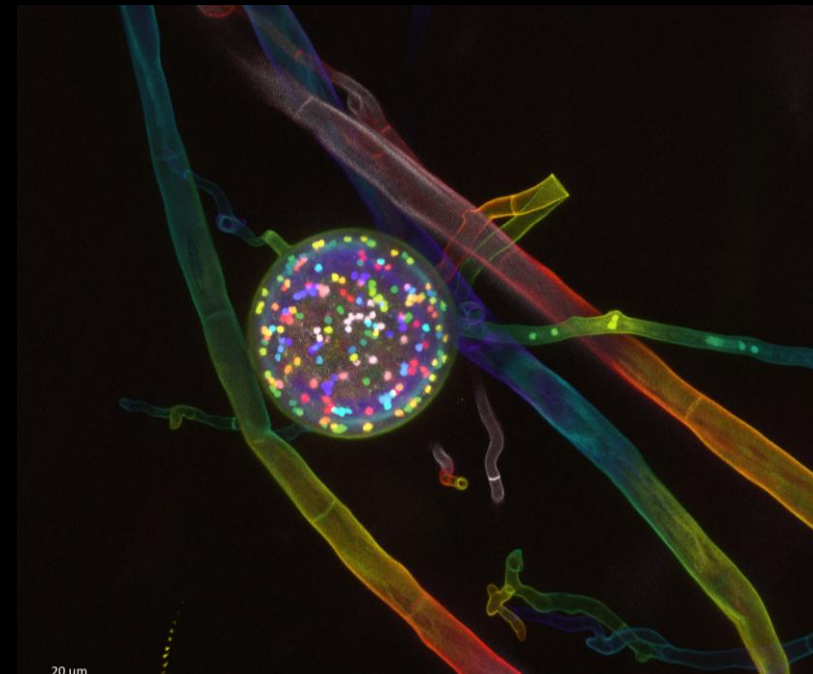
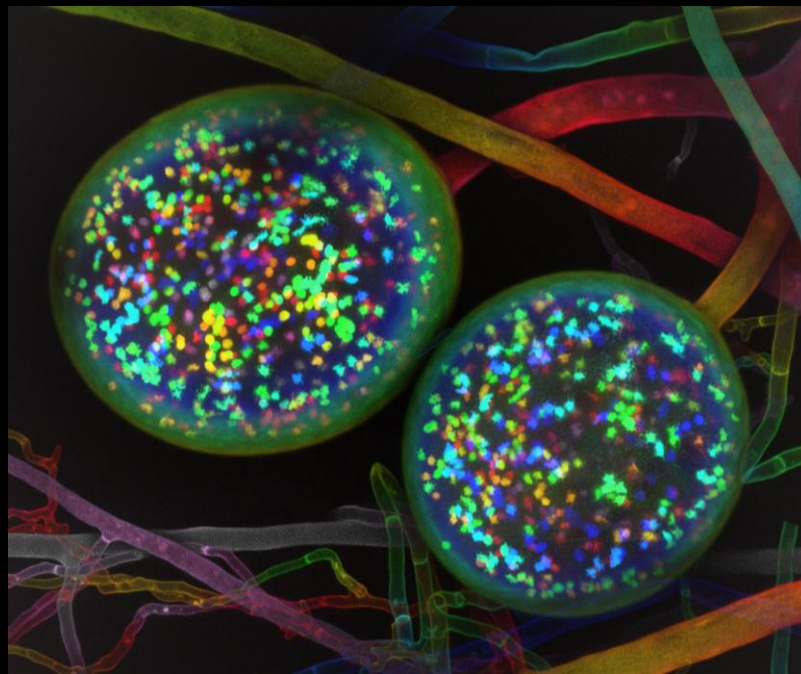
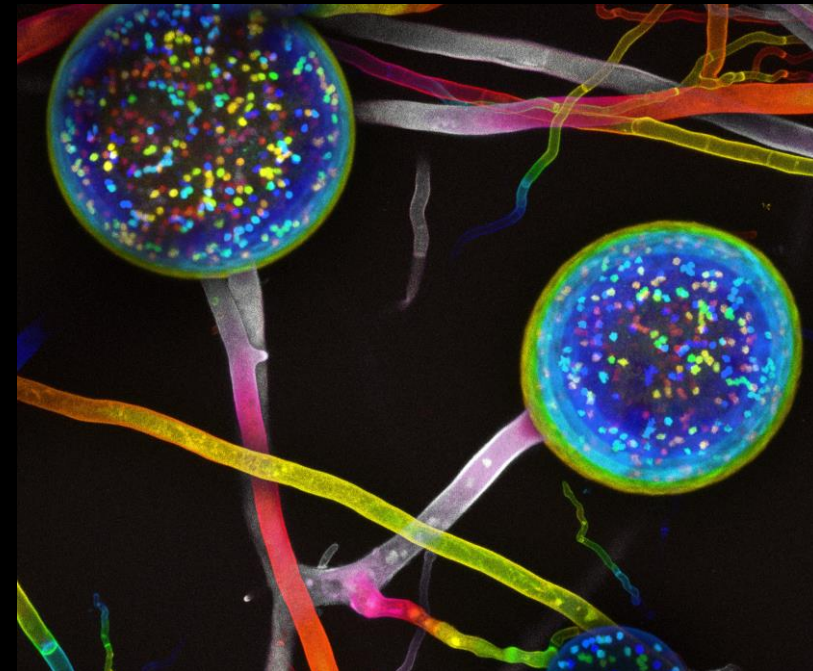
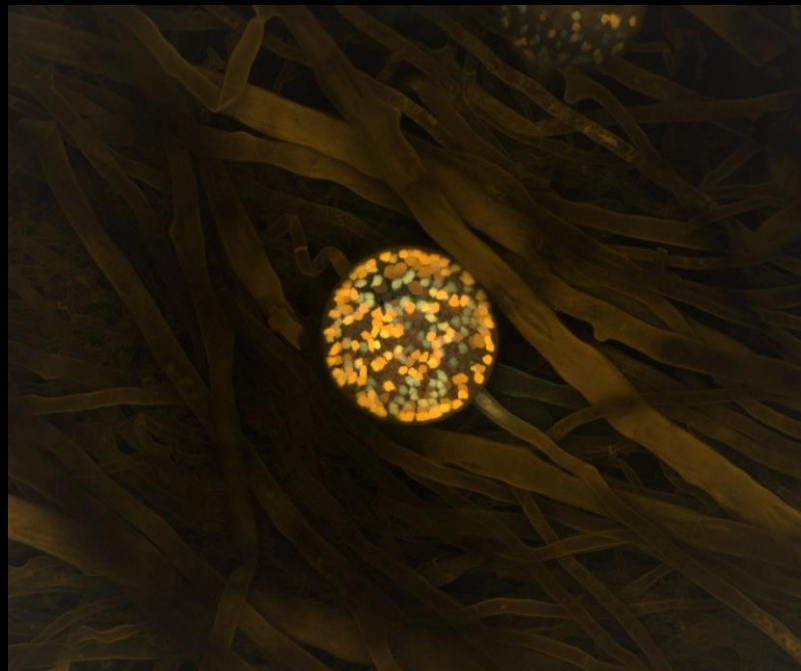
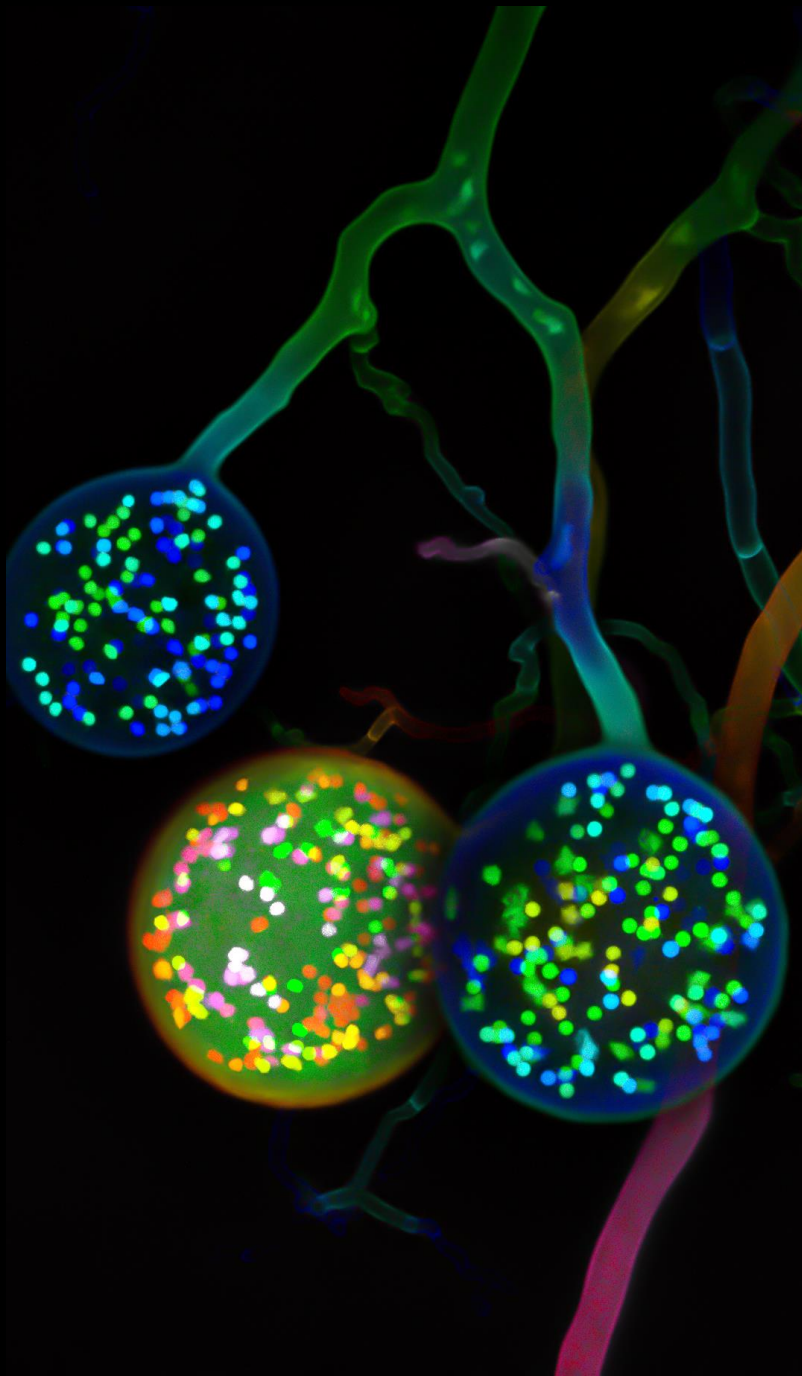
50.0µm
RhizophagusA5



Mycorrhizal art!

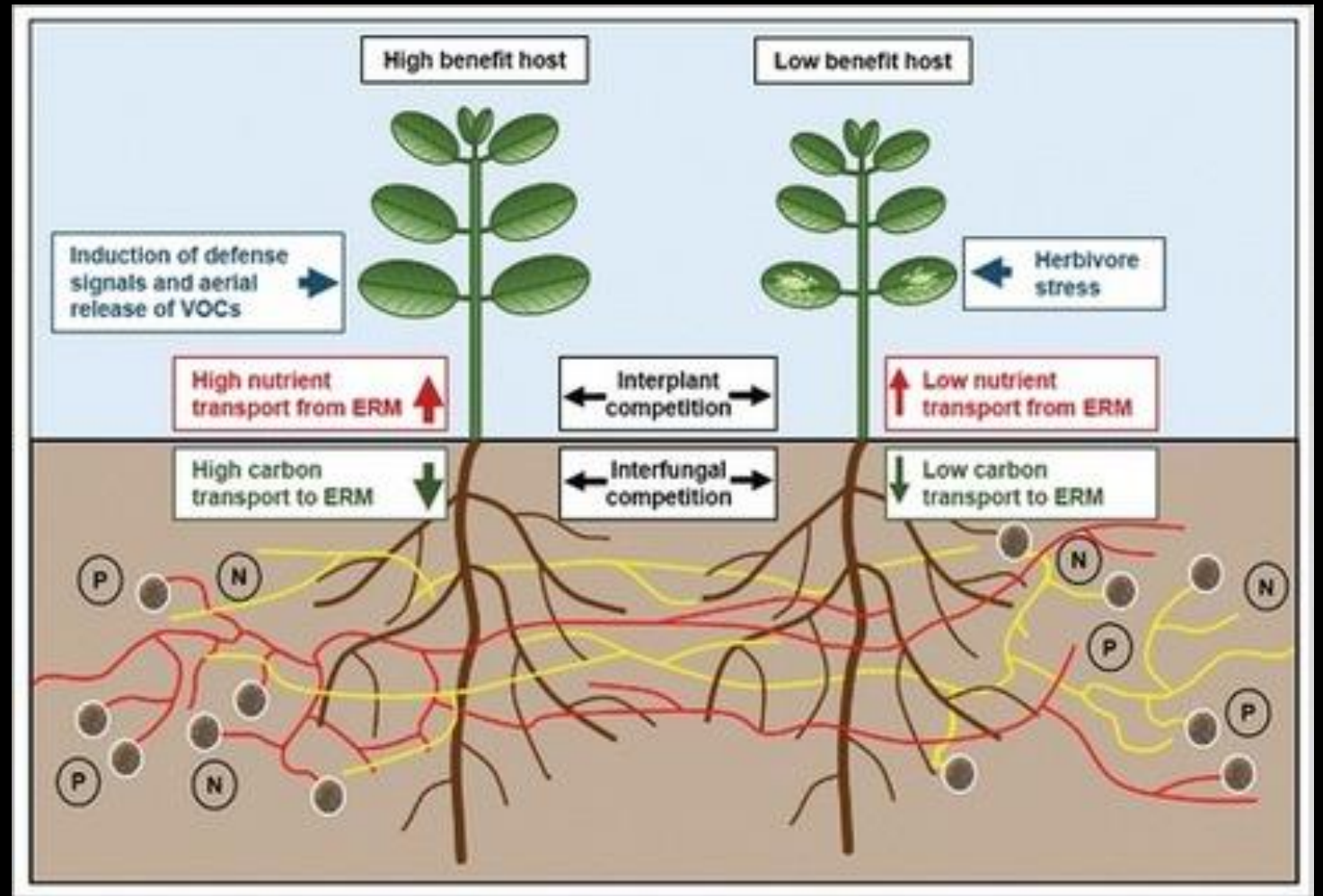




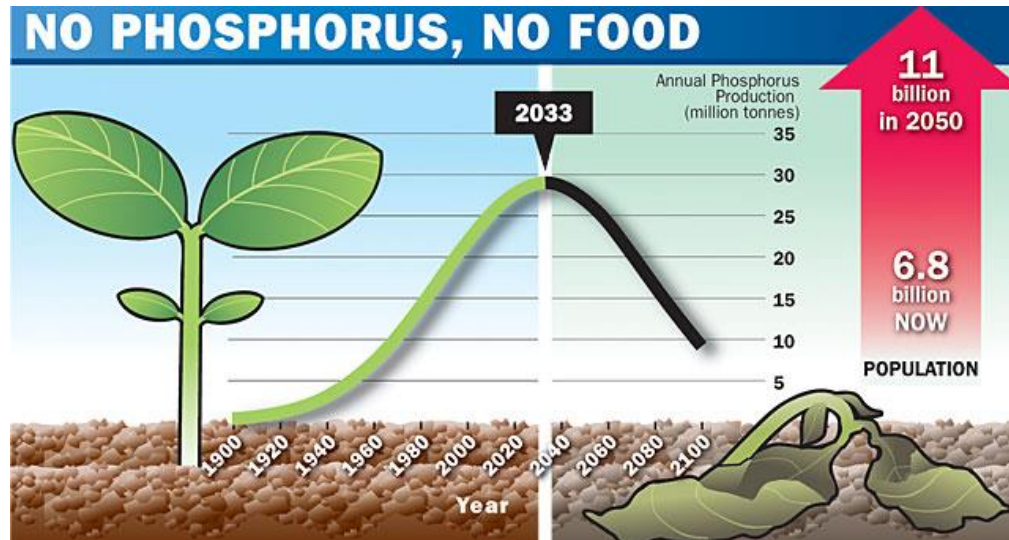


What is their role?

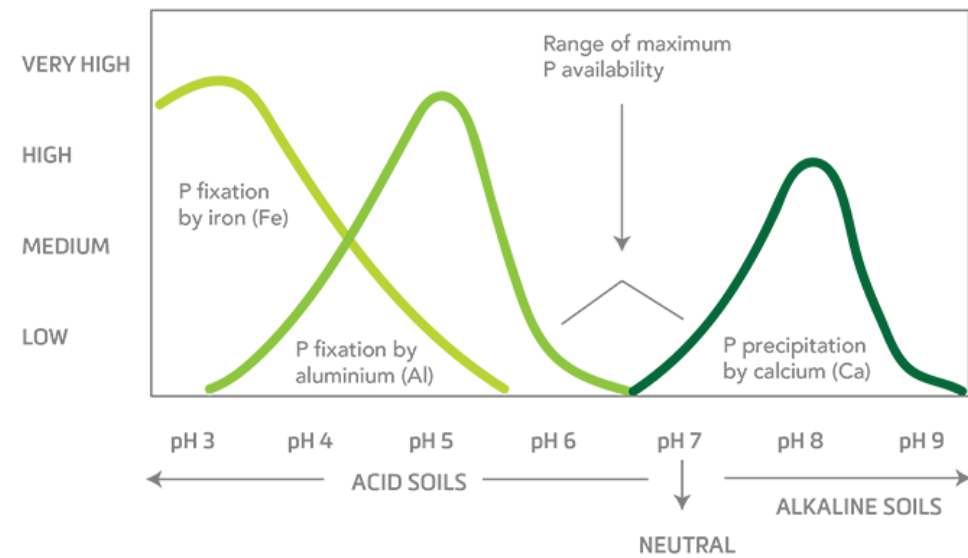
- nutrient uptake
- water relations
- pathogen defense
- stress tolerance
- soil aggregation
- soil food web
- Soil networks (Carbon sequestrers)

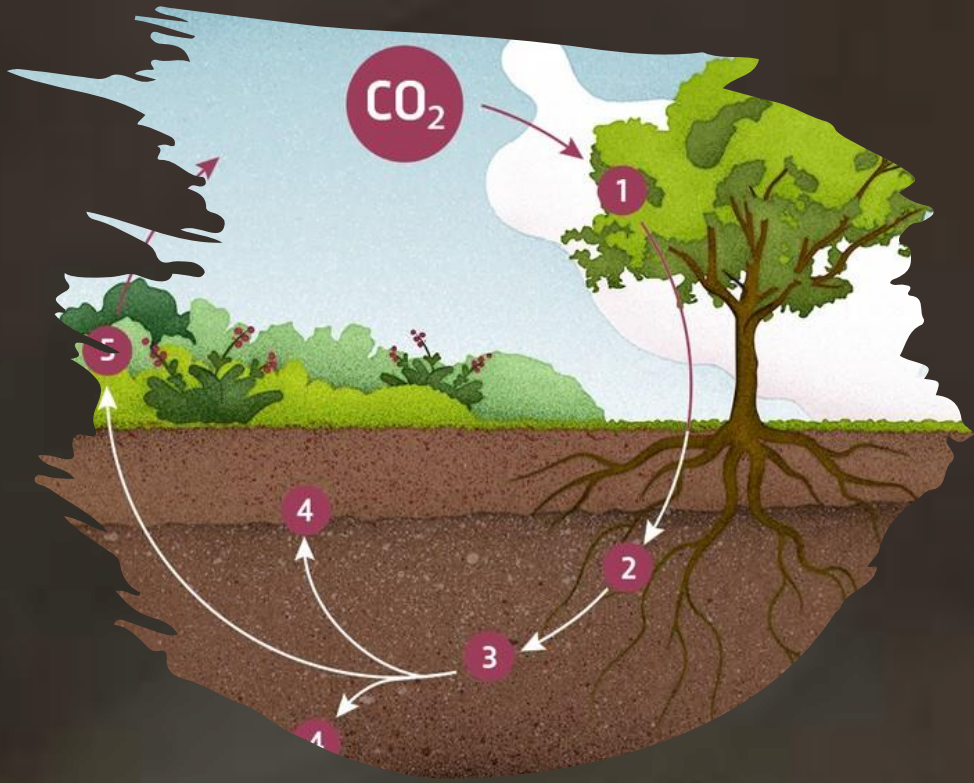






Amount of P fixed in soil





- More than 20 meters in 1g of soil
- Our research suggests that as much as 5 billion tons of carbon dioxide can flow into fungal networks each year
- A release of just 0.1% of the carbon now stored in Europe's soils would be equal to the annual emissions from 100 million cars

75% of the terrestrial carbon is in the soil.







The background of the slide is a composite of two microscopic images of plant tissue, likely stained with a blue dye like toluidine blue. The left image shows a longitudinal section of a plant stem with a prominent vascular bundle containing dark blue-stained cells. The right image shows a cross-section of plant tissue with numerous small, dark blue-stained cells scattered throughout a lighter, fibrous matrix. A small green horizontal bar is located in the top left corner of the slide.

Our practical

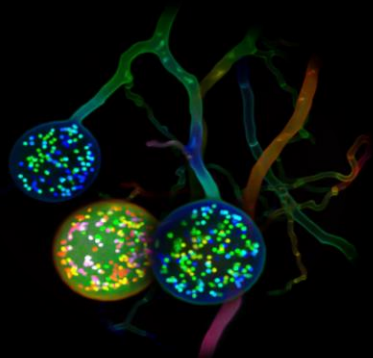
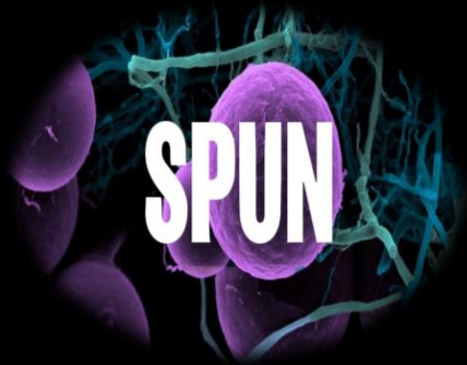


Visualisation Lab



Our practical





the living
Soils
workshop



