

Chapter III

Conclusion

We presented the interaction of *P. marneffeii*, *A. fumigatus* and *C. albicans* with soil amoeba, *A. castellanii* in different conditions. For these fungi, internalized fungal cells can exploit the amoebae after ingestion and possibly acquire nutrients by feeding from the remains of the killed host cells. *P. marneffeii* can convert to fission yeast when intracted with *A. castellanii* at 37°C for 24 h. In addition, *C. albicans* was capable to produce germ tube after phagocytosis within amoeba in both room temperature and 37°C. Our results are consistent with the view that soil amoebae may contribute to the selection and maintenance of certain traits in *P. marneffeii*, pathogenic dimorphic fungus and *C. albicans* that confer on these microbes the capacity for virulence in mammals.