

## Rhizopus

Natural Habitat

- Dung
- ◆ Fruits- causing rhizopus rot on stone fruits and strawberries
- Soils
- Vegetables

Suitable Substrates in the Indoor Environment

◆ Stored fruits and vegetables

Water Activity

◆ Aw=0.93

Mode of Dissemination

Wind

Allergenic Potential

- ◆ Type I (hay fever, asthma)
- ◆ Type III (hypersensitivity)

Potential Opportunist or Pathogen

 Causal agent of zygomycosis in immunocompromised, malnourished or severely burned people

Industrial Uses

- Used to ferment rice into miso
- Used to ferment soybeans to tempeh and sufu

Potential Toxins Produced

◆ Rhizopus oryzae produces agroclavine (an ergot alkaloid toxic to mammals)