Isolation of living fungi from Antarctic ice cores

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15 million years ago, the temperature of Antarctica was about 11 °C higher than the current temperature ⁽¹⁾. Many of fungi reported from Antarctica have also been reported from a variety of extreme, perennial cold environments including the Arctic, Siberia, the Alps, Alaska, Patagonia. Since these fungi have only been reported from the environment like the polar desert, fungi currently inhabited in Antarctica are thought to have come after 15 million years ago. However, the origins of the fungi inhabiting Antarctica are unknown.

In this presentation, to elucidate the origin and evolution of Antarctic fungi, I would like to introduce the isolation of Antarctic fungi from Antarctic ice cores.

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